

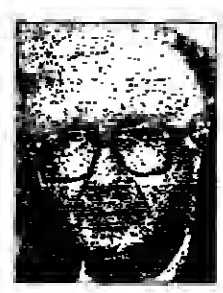
RACING
HOME SECRETARY
OFFERS HOPE FOR
FINANCIAL CONTROL

rose cannon
incentrates
new target

Davis on the...
er who has...



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30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,898 THURSDAY MARCH 10 1994

Mortar bombs bounce off runway IRA shatters peace hopes with attack on Heathrow

By Stewart Tendler and Paul Kelsie

THE IRA shattered immediate hopes of bringing peace to Ireland last night when five mortar bombs were fired at Heathrow airport. The attack, the first serious one on mainland Britain since June, was the first serious attack on the airport since June. The shells were fired from a Datsun car parked at the Excelsior Hotel in Bath Road on the airport perimeter, but none exploded as they bounced off the north runway. All flights were suspended and roads were blocked off, but the airport said the runway was still operating at the time of the attack. It was closed afterwards as police searched for the unexploded shells.

The attack on the world's busiest airport came shortly after 6 pm, just before Mr P. was voted on renewing the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Michael Howard, the announced the assault at the end of the debate and said: "The House will be relieved to learn from initial reports that it appears there were no casualties or serious damage."

He added: "I don't know whether that incident is supposed to send some signal to this House. But if it is, there is only one conclusion which the House can responsibly take."

Calling on Labour MPs to support the Government and to show unity in the fight against terrorism, he said: "There can be no more appropriate moment for displaying that unity than in the aftermath of the attack which I



Lord Caithness, who wept when he spoke of his wife's last evening, arriving at the Oxford inquest yesterday

Lady Caithness spoke of suicide

By Dominic Kennedy

THE Earl of Caithness was warned twice by his family doctor that his wife might kill herself with the shotgun he kept at home, the inquest into her death was told yesterday.

Lord Caithness told the coroner that she had indicated many times that she was thinking of harming herself and he had once taken part of the gun away, but she had urged him to leave it intact because it was her security when he was away.

When he was at home, the 16-bore double-barrelled shotgun was in a locked cupboard, but Lady Caithness knew where the key was kept and on January 8, she stole upstairs while her husband and daughter played cards and killed herself.

Lord Caithness heard the shot and found his 40-year-old wife in a bedroom at their home near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. She had put the gun muzzle in her mouth and pulled the trigger with her toe.

The Earl, who resigned as a transport minister after his wife's death, wept yesterday as he told the inquest at Oxford that he had a long, heated discussion about the future

Callaghan demands apology over 'slur'

By Philip Webster
Political Editor
and Jonathan Payne

LORD Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, gave the "right to lie" controversy an astonishing new twist yesterday when he called on William Waldegrave to clear his name over allegations that he had misled the Commons over devaluation in 1967.

Mr Waldegrave, the open government minister, appeared to have dug himself deeper into trouble after using Lord Callaghan's handling of the 1967 sterling crisis to show how ministers could, in exceptional circumstances, lie to Parliament. Last night he declined to back down.

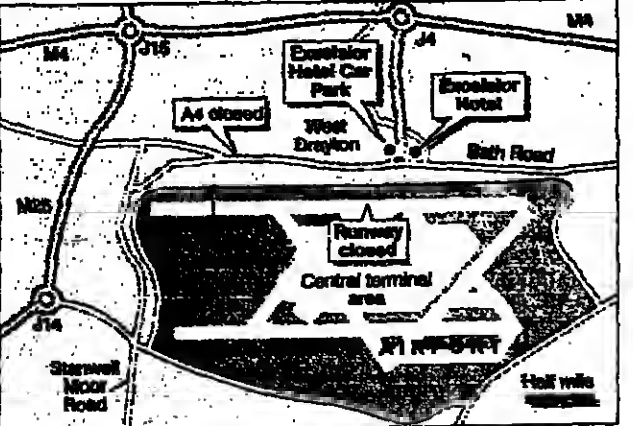
Tory MPs were horrified at the storm created by the minister's remarks to a select committee on Tuesday, and the damage done to the Government's attempt to shrug off Labour's "sleaze" allegations. Although John Major stood by his embattled colleague, the Minister for Public Service and Science remains high on most MPs' list of potential casualties in the next reshuffle.

On a south coast tour, Mr Major dismissed suggestions that Mr Waldegrave could lose his Cabinet job as "silly". He repeatedly insisted that ministers must not, and did not, mislead.

Lord Callaghan was spurred into a series of indignant denials that he had ever misled parliament and accused Mr Waldegrave of doing him an "unintentional injury". But, in a letter in reply, Mr Waldegrave did not withdraw the suggestion that the former Labour Chancellor had justifiably misled MPs in the run up to devaluation on November 18, 1967.

He told Lord Callaghan he had made no criticism of his conduct and that he had behaved in a responsible and statesmanlike way.

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Illingworth pads up to rescue England

RAY Illingworth, the former England captain, was yesterday appointed chairman of the England cricket selectors. He succeeds Ted Dexter, who resigned last August, after defeating Mike (M.J.K.) Smith by 11 votes to nine in a postal ballot of the Test and County Cricket Board.

Illingworth, 61, made it clear immediately that he would be a "hands-on" chairman in attempting to restore England's fortunes at Test level.

"I'm there to lead and I will have the final say," he said. "I want my voice to be heard and if you are going to be chairman of selectors then you must act as chairman. There would be no point in doing the job otherwise."

A Yorkshireman, he led England in 31 of his 61 Tests, notably when they regained the Ashes in Australia in 1971. He turned down the chance to become team manager in 1986 because he felt the position would not carry enough power.

He will give up a career in the media, from where he has



Illingworth: man of forthright views

Ninth body found in Gloucester

THE hunt for bodies in the Gloucester multiple murder enquiry was widened yesterday after a ninth set of human remains was found in the cellar of the house in Cromwell Street and police indicated that the final death toll could reach at least 13.

There was strong speculation that Frederick West's first wife Catherine Costello may be buried in a field at Kempey, near Gloucester, where police began searching with radar scanning equipment yesterday. The couple's daughter Charmaine has also disappeared without trace. It is believed that officers accompanied Mr West to the field secretly on Saturday.

Police would not comment on reports that all those who died had been strangled. Mr West, 52, has been charged with three murders. He will appear before Gloucester magistrates again tomorrow.

German gunman kills six in court

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A GERMAN gunman yesterday sprayed a full courtroom with bullets, killing at least six people including the judge and the man's former girl friend. The 39-year-old man then set off a home-made bomb that threw him through the window and across the street.

Dozens of injured people stumbled out of the courtroom in Euskirchen near Cologne, blood streaming down their faces. A child was among the many seriously injured.

A few minutes before, the judge had rejected the man's appeal against a DM7,200 (£900) fine for beating his girl friend. The man, whose name has not been released, evidently came prepared for revenge. He carried the bomb in a shoulder bag. "It's not normal to have tight security precautions at such a low-level court," said Jörg Pietrusky, the Bonn public prosecutor.

As the judge tried to telephone security guards, the killer shot him in the neck and

SPEEDMASTER-AUTOMATIC CHRONOGRAPH
- SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL - WATER-RESISTANT
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Redundant soldiers may replace MoD police

By Christopher Elliott

THOUSANDS of redundant soldiers may be recruited to replace Ministry of Defence police and form an armed home guard battalion responsible for protecting Britain's military establishments. Up to 3,000 MoD policemen and some unarmed MoD security guards could lose their jobs in the cost-cutting exercise.

The new battalion, to be known as the Military Home Service Engagement (MHSE), would be considerably cheaper to run than the existing force and would give the Defence Ministry greater control than it has over the present civilian force. A rump MoD police force (MDP) would retain existing civilian powers, such as the right to stop, search and detain people suspected of crime, which would not be available to soldiers of the MHSE.

The radical option is outlined in a confidential interim report by Sir John Belloch, who is looking at the 5,000-strong MoD police, Sir John and his team say the option merits further investigation and it will now be studied by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary. But Sir John also concedes that it would cause grave problems.

His report, a copy of which has been seen by *The Times*, says: "A key consideration would be the political and presentational problems arising in a situation where there were simultaneously multiple redundancies in the MDP and MGS (Military Guard Service) and a build-up of the MHSE, which might itself be recruiting from those made redundant by the services."

"Such problems could also be exacerbated if, as is likely, the redundancy costs of running down MDP [and MGS] numbers were significant. An initial analysis by the MDP secretariat suggests the redundancies could cost at least £36,000 per person."

The MoD police is the seventh largest force in Britain and is responsible for patrolling more than 120 military

establishments and the Royal Mint. Officers enjoy similar pay and conditions to other policemen and the budget for the whole force for 1994-5 is estimated at £135 million. The report does not spell out how much the soldiers would receive if they took over, but it makes clear that Sir John and the three services believe they would be much cheaper.

Other options examined in the study, which began last summer, include greater use of regular soldiers and arming the MoD's civilian security guards. However, Sir John came down firmly on the side of the MHSE.

A spokesman for the MoD Police Federation, which represents the rank-and-file officers who would lose their jobs, said last night: "This can hardly be a serious option. We cannot see economic or other arguments for the creation of another force which would be essentially a Dad's Army of redundant soldiers."

"The work of the MDP routinely encompasses both security and policing in various degrees, and could not be done satisfactorily by the armed forces. This is an exercise in cynical political expediency to offload excess troops into a new and unnecessary tier of second-class soldiering and clearly flies in the face of the ministry's own 'front line first' initiative."

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment on any detail under consideration.

Sir John, a former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, set out to "identify, and then to narrow down, the alternatives to the use of MDP in a number of its functions, but crucially those to do with the armed guarding task."

He says the threat to military establishments remains unchanged: "In addition to the security threat, defence establishments are at significant risk from fraud and other crimes including sabotage, theft and arson, as well as from demonstrators."



John Major and Nick Robinson of the DTI at a working breakfast in Portsmouth

Major does his homework before Portsmouth parade

By Jonathan Prynn

IF IT is Wednesday it must be another marginal. Or two, to be precise, as John Major yesterday squeezed another meet-the-people tour into the dead space between Prime Minister's questions on Tuesday and Thursday.

This time, Majormania hit Portsmouth. HMS *Victory* and Henry VIII's *Mary Rose* have their resting places here and many D-Day landing craft set out from Pompey. But these are tough times for Britain's premier naval base. Options for change and the defence cuts have stripped 25,000 jobs from the area.

Two Tory-held seats, Portsmouth South and Isle of Wight, lie ominously within reach of the Liberal Democrats, who share power on Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council and have control of Isle of Wight County Council.

The day followed its familiar pattern of breakfast with local pillars of business and visits to sites of interest. Yesterday it was one of the area's best-performing grant-maintained schools, a D-Day museum and a small shipyard. But the media pack could think only of the headlines — "Waldegate" — and ignored the purpose of the visit. Mr Major was prepared. At the first opportunity he gave a full response to the barrage of questions about William Waldegate's select committee evidence.

The Prime Minister remained relaxed despite the 7am start, and Oaklands Roman Catholic comprehensive school in Waterlooville, he revealed how. Asked how he withstood constant pressure, Mr Major replied: "If you read a bit, listen to music a bit, watch rugby and cricket a bit, it helps."

The advice came just after the Prime Minister had suffered his second interrogation mauling of the week. On Monday the fearless Jimmy Young stunned Westminster with the ferocity of his questioning. Yesterday it was Gillian Pennington, 16.

A self-confident young woman with parliamentary ambitions, Ms Pennington not only asked the big question on the Waldegate affair but fired a vicious supplementary when she was not satisfied with the response. Unlike John Smith, who gets three bites of the cherry, she was pulled up short by the headmaster.

For John Major it was one of the few irritations during politically undemanding day. Whether it makes the two vulnerable seats one vote safer must remain to be seen.

Mr Blair said that Labour shared a "total and complete abhorrence of terrorism and a desire to defeat it". However, he claimed the powers in the Act breached the normal rules of law and argued that the IRA was using the provision to gain publicity abroad.

Howard defends renewal of terror Act

By Jill Sherman and Robert Morgan

MICHAEL Howard put up a robust defence of Britain's anti-terrorist laws last night as he clashed bitterly with Labour over its attempts to amend them. The Home Secretary claimed that any party wanting to strip the police of ammunition to fight terrorism was unfit to govern.

Mr Howard accused Labour of trying to placate its left wing by opposing the Prevention of Terrorism Act over the past decade. Tony Blair, shadow Home Secretary, argued that Mr Howard was allowing anti-terror laws to divide the Commons for party political advantage.

Yesterday's acrimonious exchanges in the Commons followed Labour's failure to persuade the Prime Minister to accept amendments to the Act which would have allowed Labour to back it last night.

Mr Major ordered an investigation after details of a private meeting he had held with John Smith on the issue last week had leaked to the Sunday press. Downing Street officials said yesterday that the enquiry had been inconclusive. The Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office denied responsibility and Mr Major has cleared No 10 of blame.

Labour has, in recent years, opposed two parts of the Act. It wants the Government to repeal powers to exclude terrorist suspects from Britain, and it objects to the Home Secretary's powers to detain suspects for up to seven days without a judicial review.

Mr Howard said that the Act was "an indispensable means of protecting the public against lawless and murderous criminals". He said he would welcome a common approach but the way to do that was not for the Government to give up powers but for Labour to recognise that they were essential.

Mr Blair said that Labour shared a "total and complete abhorrence of terrorism and a desire to defeat it". However, he claimed the powers in the Act breached the normal rules of law and argued that the IRA was using the provision to gain publicity abroad.

MPs voted to renew the Act by 328 to 242.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Hypocrites hound man of honesty for telling the truth

It is a mad world into which William Waldegate has stumbled. Not least among its ironies was a complaint to the Home Secretary yesterday from Peter Mandelson (Lab. Hartlepool), Mr Howard's department. Mandelson said, had "leaked" information concerning confidential inter-party discussions about the Terrorism Act. Worse, he added: by failing to deny it, the Home Secretary had effectively confirmed the existence of such an arrangement.

But it did exist. The truth leaked! Not denied! Howard! To test Opposition MPs' commitment to complete honesty in all circumstances, perhaps someone should have tabled a question to the Home Secretary asking whether he was indeed having discussions with Opposition spokesmen about the Act.

If you want to know why the British public and its news media get liars for their politicians, just look at what we do to those who try to tell the truth. Here we go again, sniffing around our political leaders, picking up the scent of any intellect bolder than the others, and hounding him down. Political commentary seems to consist in ambushing anyone so incautious as to tell us truths we do not wish to hear, shrieking "gaffe!" like parrots, and baiting him into oblivion. We take pot-shots at every head that appears above the parapet, then notice that we are left only with pygmies for politicians. Then we write columns bemoaning our leaders' lack of stature.

We mob, ridicule and finally destroy those who try to refresh our politics, and then complain that our politics is stale. Every time a politician stands up, we break his legs. We end up with those whose only posture is to crouch. And then we rail against timidity! Truly, we are a most hypocritical people. Crouching

very plausibly at the dispatch box yesterday was the Home Secretary himself. Michael Howard was pretending, what the whole world knows to be untrue, that it is a matter of sorrow to the Conservative Party that the Labour Party cannot support the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Howard, whose dispatch box performance gets more polished by the month, put on a convincing display of indignation at Labour's doubts, and seemed to argue that on an important matter affecting security it was always wrong not to accept the advice of the police.

Crouching to his credit a little less comfortably on his side of the divide, Tony Blair, Labour's principal home affairs spokesman, put on a half-convincing display of promoting no more than British justice, though the whole world knows he is seeking also to keep the left of his party, who irritate him beyond measure, on board.

For the better part of an hour, Howard and Blair shadow-boxed with skill and circumspection. Much of Howard's speech was devoted to insinuating what is not true, that the Opposition's commitment to fighting terrorism is half-hearted. Much of Blair's speech was devoted to denying what is true, that among his real purposes in proposing a commission of enquiry is getting his party off the hook of appearing to undermine an anti-terrorist measure. Both were far too careful to commit themselves to any factual claim whose falsity might be objectively demonstrated.

Both, if asked, would deny that a responsible minister ever lies to the Commons. They will prosper. In the mad world which Mr Waldegate has described, the man who says he never lies is accounted more honest than the man who admits he might.

Free nursing care not guaranteed

By Our Health Services Correspondent

PATIENTS who became chronically ill after a road accident or a stroke could no longer be guaranteed free nursing care because of changes in the law, the chief executive of the NHS said yesterday.

Sir Duncan Nichol said patients who suffered brain damage or a disabling illness, but who were judged not to require long-term medical care, may have to pay charges in a private nursing home. But if they needed health care — whether in hospital or a nursing home — the NHS would pay.

However, Sir Duncan later admitted that there was "no clear boundary" between health and social care. Under the community care legislation, patients admitted to private nursing homes are subject to a means test.

The erosion of the right to free long-term care, a founding principle of the NHS for more than 40 years, was condemned by Labour MPs. They cited guidance issued by the Health Department in 1989 and 1991 which said that health authorities had a responsibility under the NHS Act to provide nursing care for those who "cannot or do not wish to pay for it".

Sir Duncan, who was appearing before the Commons select committee on the health service ombudsman, was answering questions about a case in which Leeds Health Authority discharged a man who had suffered brain damage following a stroke to a private nursing home and told his family they would have to pay the fees of £330 a week. The man unable to speak or feed himself, had a kidney tumour and suffered epileptic fits but the consultant in charge decided nothing more could be done for him.

The authority's action was severely criticised by William Reid, the health service ombudsman, who issued a separate report to Parliament on the case.

Philip Hunt, director of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said that the case placed a financial time bomb under health authorities if they were required to provide care for all such patients.

A DEEP mistrust between government departments and their newly created executive agencies has been discovered during an audit of Whitehall by a senior French bureaucrat.

Sylvie Trosa, from the Conseil Scientifique de l'Evaluation in Paris, discovered an atmosphere of hostility between mandarins and chief executives.

During a six-month secondment to the Cabinet Office, Ms Trosa visited 26 agency chief executives. While her report, which has been described by one senior Whitehall official as a "weighty piece of analysis", endorses the Government's executive agency initiative, it accuses Whitehall

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Malaysia reaffirms ban on British trade

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The Malaysian cabinet reaffirmed the ban on giving government contracts to British firms yesterday. Abdullah Badawi, the Foreign Minister, said after the weekly cabinet meeting that "our stand remains unchanged. There were no new decisions."

Much of the meeting was devoted to examining British press reports. Doctor Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, plainly expects British newspapers to show greater respect for Malaysia before he will reconsider his trade ban. Current policy is to allow the controversy to simmer quietly. The belligerent rhetoric has now ended and diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict are expected to bear fruit, although government officials said that further "insults" by British newspapers could delay or scuttle a solution.

Boy on rape charge

The first 12-year-old boy charged with rape since Britain's law changed last year was sent for trial yesterday. The boy, now 13, appeared before the youth court at Newport, Isle of Wight, accused of raping a girl of 12 at Cowes last November. His parents sat either side of him during the 10-minute hearing. He will be tried at Winchester Crown Court on a date to be fixed. He was remanded on bail, with conditions that he lives with his parents, observes a curfew, does not visit Cowes and has no contact with prosecution witnesses.

Police in pay dispute

Pay talks have collapsed between senior police officers, the Home Office and local authorities. Representatives of nearly 3,000 superintendents and chief superintendents say pay proposals mean cuts of thousands of pounds. They are already fighting plans to end the rank of chief superintendent. The dispute is now heading for arbitration.

Phantom back on song

Dave Willetts, star of *Phantom of the Opera* at the Manchester Opera House, is expected to return to the leading role today. He injured himself on Tuesday evening when he fell 10ft from scenery after the interval, causing the rest of the show to be called off. Mr Willetts was treated for concussion but left hospital yesterday.

Whitehall agencies 'rife with mistrust'

By Michael Dynes, Whitehall Correspondent

A DEEP mistrust between government departments and their newly created executive agencies has been discovered during an audit of Whitehall by a senior French bureaucrat.

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departments of excessive interference in the day-to-day management of the agencies.

A total of 91 executive agencies have been created since 1988, ranging from the Passport Agency to the Benefits Agency, in an attempt to instil private-sector management skills into public sector services and to boost efficiency.

The 80-page report concluded that there was a considerable cultural gap between departments and their agencies. Agencies resented departmental controls, and departments saw agencies "as little fortresses following their own aims", it said.

Leading article, page 17

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Grace Kelly's love letters reveal Hollywood affairs

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

LETTERS in which Princess Grace of Monaco described her life and loves as a film star before marriage, and confided that she suffered a miscarriage two years before the birth of her daughter Stephanie, are expected to fetch as much as £100,000 when they are auctioned in Los Angeles later this month.

The letters, sent over 20 years to her closest confidante Prudence Wise, have been kept hidden for more than three decades.

They show that, as Grace Kelly, the princess enjoyed a hectic private life which frequently upset her parents, and belied her later image as an unimpeachably poised and proper member of European royalty.

In the collection of 117

letters, postcards and photographs sent to her lifelong friend, the woman who came to personify regal poise and serenity wears her heart on her sleeve. "I just lost the baby two weeks ago after three months. I was devastated," she wrote to "Prudy" in 1963, seven years after her marriage to Prince Rainier. The letter continues: "I actually just got out of bed. I am shaken mentally and physically."

Earlier letters recount the highs and lows of the actress's life in equal measure. The first in the collection, dated April 13, 1949, describes in eight sad pages the abrupt end of the future princess's early love affair with Don Richardson because of her parents' disapproval.

"Don came down Saur-

day," Kelly wrote. "The whole situation couldn't have been more gruesome. They dislike Don immensely and the fact that I could fall in love with a Jew was just beyond them."

The future princess was notoriously susceptible to the attractions of older men, and had affairs with Gary Cooper, Cary Grant, Bing Crosby and David Niven. She escaped her parents' scrutiny of her love life when filming *Mogambo* with Clark Gable in Kenya in 1953.

She sent Prudy regular updates on her romance with her 51-year-old co-star, including a description of a romantic swim: "Yesterday we had a day off—Clark and I rode in a jeep for three hours to get to Sukoba—the nearest town—on Lake Victoria. We had a horrible lunch at the hotel there and then a delicious swim in the lake."

"We had to go in our underwear. It was a riot, as you can well imagine..."

A letter of the following year refers to her secret engagement to fashion designer Oleg Cassini, then aged 41. "Had dinner with Bing [Crosby] one night... my father isn't very happy over the prospect of Oleg as a son-in-law."

Two years later, with her father's approval, she became Princess Grace after meeting Prince Rainier while filming *To Catch a Thief* on location in Monaco.

Princess Grace's letters are to be sold at what is billed as the world's largest memorabilia auction, taking place at the Superior Auction Galleries in Beverly Hills on March 26. Proceeds of the sale will go to Terry Kinella, a Los Angeles memorabilia dealer who bought the letters from Princess Grace's estate and has written a book based on them.

Mr Kinella believes that many of the affairs that Grace Kelly was supposed to have had in her heyday as an actress in 1950s Hollywood were invented by reporters hungry for stories about her private life yet frustrated by her refusal to give interviews beyond those required of her by the studios.

Suicide the only possible verdict, says coroner

Doctor warned earl about shotgun

CHRIS HARRIS



Major Richard Coke, left, and his wife Molly, right, consoled by a friend yesterday

Continued from page 1

telephoned him to say she had threatened suicide. Lady Caitness was seeing a psychoanalyst and a consultant psychiatrist to whom she expressed self-destructive thoughts on numerous occasions. She was given medication to combat her depression and to help her to sleep.

"When I have had patients threaten suicide with firearms and shotguns I have asked the police to remove the weapons from the house," Dr Goves said. "On this occasion I asked Lord Caitness to ensure that the weapons were kept locked in a cupboard. He assured me this would be the case and that he had the key."

Dr Goves also disagreed with Lord Caitness over the timing of his wife's death. He said that he had arrived at the house within 20 minutes of receiving the earl's call at about 6.30pm, but he believed Lady Caitness to have been dead for two or three hours.

A statement was also read from the next-door neighbour Jane Lambert, who had heard the sound of a gunshot between 3pm and 3.30pm that afternoon. The statement said she heard no further strange noises that day.

Questioned about the discrepancy, Lord Caitness said that he had worked out the timings partly on the basis of his memory of when the television programmes had been on. PC Raymond Mayo, who was called to the house at about 6.30pm said he believed the weapon had been fired in the previous two hours and in his summing up, the coroner accepted that the time of death was about 6.30pm.

PC Mayo said Lady Caitness was found lying on the floor on the dog's bed with the gun between her legs. She had taken off her right shoe so she could use her foot to press the trigger, because her arms were too short to reach it with the gun barrel in her mouth.

The gun cupboard key was back in its place in the earl's study, and the police checked

that it was possible to open the cupboard under the stairs without being heard from the nursery. PC Mayo said that the police investigation into the case had concluded that there were no suspicious circumstances. A search for a suicide note yielded nothing.

The coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, concluded that Lady Caitness had been going through a "difficult period" and that in the ten minutes after leaving her husband and her daughter playing cards, Lady Caitness had taken the keys of the gun cabinet, removed the gun, reloaded it, collected two cartridges, made herself comfortable in her bedroom, and using her right toe to shoot the gun, she had taken her life.

"I cannot conceive that this could have been an accident," he said. "I can only record the verdict that she took her own life."

Lord Caitness left the court separately from his parents-in-law, who have blamed his relationship with another woman for their daughter's death, and they exchanged neither words nor glances.

Major Gardiner had opened the hearing with a warning that the purpose of the hearing was to establish only the identity of the deceased, how, when and where she died, and was "not to be taken as a pretext for unnecessary prying into the personal affairs of the family."

Lady Caitness's parents, Major Richard Coke and his wife Molly, watched intently as each witness gave evi-

dence. Shortly after their daughter's death they had publicly blamed the earl's relationship with Jan Fitzalan-Howard, the former secretary to the Princess Royal, for the unhappiness of Lady Caitness.

Major Coke only showed emotion once, closing his eyes for a brief period after the pathologist, Dr Godman Greywood, concluded his detailed description of his post-mortem by declaring that the cause of death was "severe head injury as a consequence of shotgun wound to the head through the mouth."

Mrs Coke, a romantic novelist, never flinched as she peered at the witness box through tortoise shell-rimmed spectacles, a yellow scarf about her head.

Wife weeps as sailor tells of Wren affair

THE wife of a Royal Navy engineer wept in court yesterday as he told of his affair with a married Wren from his ship.

Mo Luff was comforted by a friend as she listened to her husband Ian telling a court martial in Portsmouth that he had telephoned her from Spain and asked her forgiveness after jumping ship with Wren Sylvia Panter and £11,000 from HMS *Invincible*'s safe. Before he rang, an article had appeared in *The Sun* in which he and Wren Panter said they intended to set up home together.

Party Officer Luff, 30, told the court: "I asked my wife to listen to what I had to say. I asked her if she would have me back. I asked her if she could forgive me. She said 'Yes' and that she just wanted me back home." When he returned to Britain, he said that he felt guilty and depressed.

PO Luff and Wren Panter, 27, had started an affair three weeks before leaving their ship in Corfu. They gave themselves up in Barcelona after nine days, having spent more than £2,000.

He told the court that he had begun the affair only three days after he was warned by a senior officer against the relationship. He claimed that the liaison with Wren Panter, who was nicknamed the Beasmish Queen because of her liking for stout, was a "spur-of-the-moment thing."

On the day they jumped ship, Wren Panter had become extremely upset because her shore leave in Corfu had been cancelled. After several glasses of stout, she began shaking, crying and waving her arms about, he said.

She said she needed to get away from the ship and he decided to go with her to prevent her from coming to harm.

"I was very concerned for her welfare," he said. "She actually said if she didn't get off [the ship], she would jump off. I thought she meant she was going to throw herself over the side."

PO Luff, of Sandown, Isle of Wight, and Wren Panter, of Camberley, Surrey, admit misapplying ship funds and going absent without leave, but deny theft and desertion. The hearing continues.

School reforms 'drove teacher to his death'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A TEACHER found hanged at his home was driven to a premature death by the pressure of the Government's school reforms, his widow said last night.

Joseph Simmonds, 50, a craft teacher at Highfields School, Penn, West Midlands, had complained of being deluged by paperwork, spending hours on pupil assessments and being forced to cope with more and more pupils. A final straw was having to scavenge in skips and timber yards for classroom materials.

Joan Simmonds, 49, said: "The blame for my husband's death lies squarely on the shoulders of the school." His son Ian, 26, said: "What has happened to my father could happen to many teachers who

nowadays suffer the same kind of pressure. We are speaking out in the hope we can make teachers realise what the important things are in life."

"My mother wants to make teachers realise what's really important—the family and the school children. It's not the system, the reports and the paperwork."

Mrs Simmonds found her husband dead at their home on Monday. He had recently taken two weeks off work suffering from anxiety. When he returned he said the pressure was greater than ever.

Mr Simmonds became a craft, design and technology teacher at the school nine years ago after he was made redundant as a toolmaster.

Sex bias case

'Dainty' garage girl wins £24,000

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGE girl who was turned down for a job as a mechanic because she was considered too dainty was awarded more than £24,000 yesterday when she won her claim of sex discrimination.

Karen Bishop, now 17, was refused two jobs by Cooper Thames Dition, a BMW dealer of Surrey. At one point she was offered one of the jobs but was told two days later that she had been rejected. Both jobs were given to boys.

An industrial tribunal in Croydon said yesterday: "We are satisfied the applicant was at least second for the jobs and that she was better than one of the two people taken on." Miss Bishop, then 15, was the only candidate to have the GCSE stipulated in the job advertisement.

The tribunal decided she was unfairly denied an apprenticeship in favour of two 16-year-old boys simply because she was female. Miss Bishop, who said afterwards she was ecstatic, was given £3,500 for injury to feelings and £20,889 loss of earnings. Interest is expected to bring the total she receives to close to £30,000.

Miss Bishop, of Cobham, Surrey, said: "I was pretty depressed at the prospect of being turned down because I was a girl. Now I look at it as their loss."

Elaine Donnelly, the tribunal chairman, said she and her colleagues were concerned that Cooper Thames Dition first told the girl she had been successful in applying for a four-year apprenticeship and then informed her two days later that she had not got the job.

"She had gone out of her way to go into an area unusual for girls. She had tried to make her way on her own initiative. To be told she had first got a job and then that she wasn't behaviour we do not approve of," she said.

Miss Donnelly said comments at the girl's job interview in 1992 that new shower facilities would have to be

installed for her pointed to discrimination. She also criticised evidence from managers who said they wanted candidates to "fit in".

Such comments were like a "warning light" to tribunals hearing cases of this sort, she said. "There was a male environment. The choice of the boys rather than the applicant was because they were more likely to fit in because they were men."

The three-day hearing heard that Miss Bishop had given up a place on a college course after being told she had the job. Miss Donnelly said Cooper's service manager used his influence to get her



Karen Bishop: "I look at it as their loss"

reinstated on the course when his firm withdrew its offer.

Miss Bishop had told the hearing how those interviewing her for the apprenticeship had asked whether she minded getting her hands dirty or scratched. She was also questioned about whether she thought she was strong enough for the job.

Miss Bishop, who is taking motor vehicle studies at Guildford College, said after the hearing: "This experience has made me more determined than ever to continue in the motor trade. I passed my test two weeks ago and drive a Mini. I might use some of the money on a new car, but it won't be a BMW."

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Politics, power and Malaysia's playboy princes

JOANNA PITMAN ON SWINGING SULTANS IN THE

MAGAZINE

PLUS
WHY REAL DOGS DON'T DO CRUFTS
IN
WEEKEND

Solicitors join attack on new payments for crime victims

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE on the Government to abandon its controversial compensation scheme for victims of crime intensified yesterday when the Law Society pledged financial backing for a challenge in the courts.

Just 24 hours after John Smith, the Labour leader, rounded on the Prime Minister over the proposals, which are due to come in on April 1, the solicitors' professional body said it would pay the costs of legal action.

Anne Coles, the society's legal adviser, said: "Solicitors feel very concerned about the unfairness of the proposed scheme which takes no account of individual victims' circumstances or loss of income."

She said the strength of feeling was such that lawyers would also be likely to offer their services free if legal action went ahead. Counsel's advice is now being taken on the chances of a successful legal challenge.

The Government is proposing to introduce a tariff system for compensating victims of crime, linked to the type of injury, in place of the present system in which individual awards are linked with the circumstances of each case. Critics say the planned system is too crude.

On Wednesday the Home Secretary admitted that the changes could save the Government £250 million a year up to the end of the decade. A clear aim of the scheme is to tackle the cost of compensating victims at a time when crime is rising.

Yesterday new figures from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board showed that a record £152 million was paid out to victims of violence in 1992-3, 6 per cent more than the previous year's record figure. Since the scheme was introduced in 1964, more than

£909 million has been paid out, of which £405 million was in the past three years. Applications rose by 7.5 per cent and 58,688 cases were settled.

The new scheme has been castigated by a distinguished line-up of legal figures led by the former law lord Lord Ackner, and including two other former law lords, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brightman, as well as Lord Alexander of Weedon QC, the Conservative peer, and Lord Carlisle of Bucklow QC, the chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

They maintain that the proposals will be grossly unfair to victims and mean far lower awards than at present as they exclude both loss of earnings and the cost of medical care.

Lord Ackner and other leading lawyers also argue that the scheme is illegal as it breaches the 1988 Criminal Justice Act which made provision for the present scheme to be placed on a statutory footing. Parliamentary approval would be needed before any change.

Under the new tariff scheme, the top award perhaps to a victim with permanent brain damage and no control of their functions—would be £250,000.

The British Security Industry Association also called on the Government to rethink the proposals yesterday, describing them as totally inadequate. It said many employees involved in transporting cash and valuables "have faced a gunman more often than do most police officers in the course of a lifetime of service".

One Securicor employee paralysed ten years ago by gunshot wounds was awarded £500,000, of which £425,000 was for loss of future earnings and the cost of adapting a house. Under the new proposals, the award would be just half that sum.



Catherine Russell, left, and Barbara Flynn in the new drama *Chandler & Co*

£25m savings help BBC curb repeats

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC television will show an extra 110 hours of original programmes between June and August to avoid a recurrence of its dismal performance last summer when 25 per cent of its schedule was repeats.

The drama *EastEnders* will be given an extra third episode a week from the middle of next month, bringing it into line with its ITV rival *Coronation Street*.

Alan Yentob, BBC1's controller, said that the corporation had made efficiency savings of £25 million which had been spent on new productions. The savings will be seen as a vindication of Producer Choice, the controversial market-oriented drive introduced last April.

Mr Yentob said: "The money has been found from shifting budgets around, economies, and from striking harder deals with our resource departments."

The changes are part of BBC television's £220 million spring and summer schedules, which bear the first fruits of the corporation's programme strategy review.

ordered last year by John Birt, the director general, and carried out by Mr Yentob and Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC radio.

There will be a new series of *QED* on BBC1. Leisure output has also been increased with several new series such as *Rhodes Around Britain*, when chef Gary Rhodes samples regional cuisine, and *The Great Antiques Hunt* in which contestants will test their knowledge of antiques.

A documentary will mark the 25th anniversary of British troops in Ulster and BBC2 will mark its 30th birthday next month with an evening of programmes presented by Sir David Attenborough, the station's second controller.

A six-part BBC2 documentary on the Diplomatic Service, *True Brits*, includes footage of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary being briefed by officials. New drama also includes *Chandler & Co*, a series about two women private detectives starring Catherine Russell and Barbara Flynn.

Bowbelle skipper suspended

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE skipper of the dredger involved in the *Marchioness* disaster on the Thames in 1989 has been suspended from duty shortly after returning to sea.

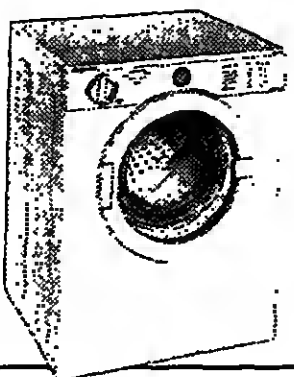
Douglas Henderson, 38, captain of the *Bowbelle* when it ran down the *Marchioness* pleasure cruiser, with the loss of 51 lives, is alleged to have been drunk on duty on his latest vessel.

Mr Henderson, who obtained his master's certificate a year before the *Marchioness* accident, had been working until recently as a taxi driver on Tyneside. In the latest incident he was one of the crew of *Sand Kestrel*, a dredger sailing to Holland from Newcastle upon Tyne. It is owned by South Coast Shipping, which owned the *Bowbelle*.

During the crossing, a crew member reported Mr Henderson drunk. When the dredger arrived in Amsterdam he was told to fly home.

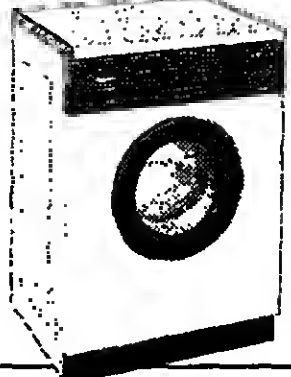
Mr Henderson said: "I am in a very difficult position. I have nothing to say." He was cleared of negligence in the *Marchioness* case after two juries failed to agree a verdict.

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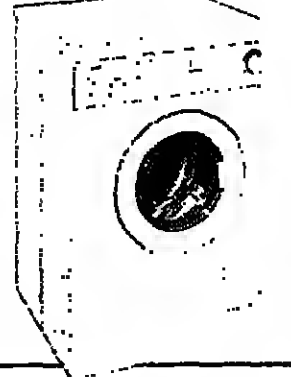


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Son burnt mother's historic mill

By JOHN YOUNG

A MAN was jailed for four years yesterday for burning down an historic water mill his mother wanted to restore and leave to the nation.

Chelmsford Crown Court was told that John Turner, 45, a transport manager, had deliberately set fire to the 18th century mill on the River Pant at Great Bardfield, Essex, because he feared borders of tourists would devalue his house next door.

His mother Florence, 69, had owned the mill for 37 years, but in April last year, a week before she was due to sign a contract with Essex County Council to lease the mill for 99 years, Turner burnt the four-storey building to the ground. Andrew Williams, for the prosecution, said Turner was seen driving away from the area.

Turner told the court he had not been near the mill.

Judge Watling told him: "You deliberately set light to that mill. You had no regard for the safety of your mother, who you knew would be in part of the house because she was expecting her grandchildren to visit. To sort out your affairs, you deliberately destroyed a priceless piece of English heritage."

Pit bull to stay on death row

AN AMERICAN pit bull terrier, ordered to be destroyed 20 months ago after its muzzle was removed in public when it was ill, remained on death row yesterday when two High Court judges said they could show the animal no mercy.

Dempsey, owned by Dianne Fanneran, 46, of Hanwell, west London, was taken for a walk in Ealing in April 1992 by Mark Cichon, 25, her nephew. The dog was suffering from kennel cough and when he removed the muzzle Dempsey was sick.

But the scene was witnessed by police, and Ealing magistrates fined Mr Cichon £50 for having the dog unmuzzled in a public place, told him to pay £50 costs and ordered Dempsey's destruction.

Dismissing the appeal, Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Schiemann said the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act did not allow a defence that it was necessary to take off Dempsey's muzzle to save her from unnecessary suffering. Neither statute nor common law allowed a person "to make a value judgment between what is good for the dog, as opposed to the safety of the public".

Both judges agreed the case raised a matter of public importance that should be considered by the House of Lords.

Car exhaust dust 'killing thousands'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FINE particles from car exhausts could be killing 10,000 people a year in England and Wales, according to calculations by an American specialist. Most at risk are the old and those suffering from pneumonia, chronic lung diseases or heart disease.

Research has shown that the particles are drawn into the lungs, carrying chemicals, including acids, with them. Professor Stephen Holgate, a leading adviser to the Department of Health, has now changed his mind about the risk posed by the particles.

Two years ago, he chaired an advisory group which claimed that the particles, known as PM10, posed no significant threat to health.

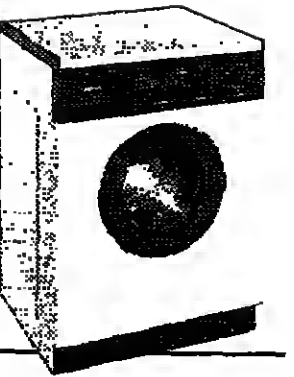
The new research "provides convincing evidence for a link between mortality and PM10", he says in this week's *New Scientist*.

Just how many deaths the particles cause is difficult to estimate, but Joel Schwartz, an epidemiologist from the US Environmental Protection Agency, says in the same issue that for every 10 microgram per cubic metre increase in PM10, deaths increase by 1 per cent.

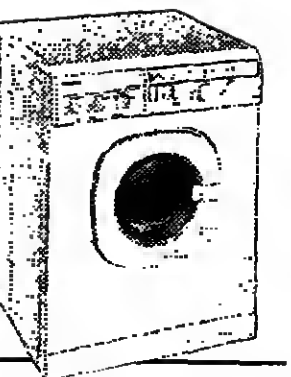
Average levels of PM10 in British cities are about 28 micrograms, which means that about 2.8 per cent of deaths in urban areas might be attributable to PM10. This translates to a death rate among city-dwellers attributable to PM10 of about 10,000.

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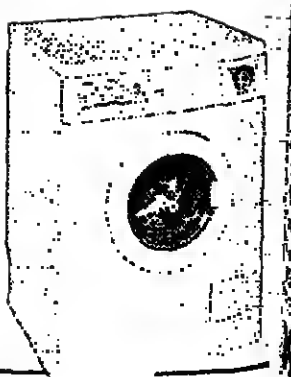
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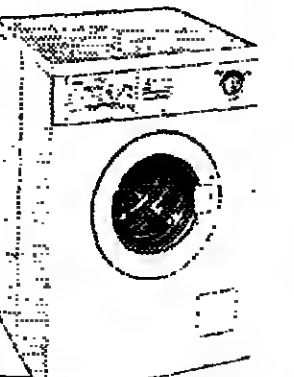
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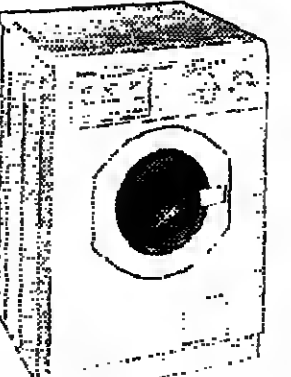
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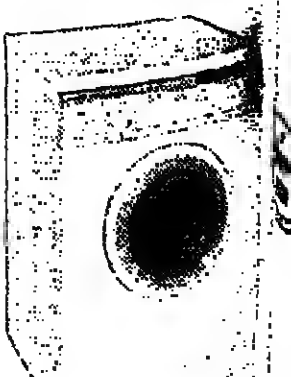
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Governors warn of renewed riot risk in overcrowded jails

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE leader of Britain's prison governors issued a blunt warning to the Government yesterday that overcrowding in jails was getting worse and that further rioting was likely.

Brendan O'Friel, head of Strangeways in Manchester during the 1990 riot and chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, told its annual conference that overcrowding was continuing to turn out prisoners who had become "enbittered, hardened, and contaminated individuals".

Mr O'Friel described the practice of moving inmates from the North West to spare prison accommodation in the Midlands as imposing a form of "internal exile" on people.

"We are building up a significant number of prisoners with a justifiable grudge against the prison service for moving them so far away from home," he told delegates meeting in Rugby. "Steps must be taken to bring this to an end or it will bring trouble within our prisons."

Mr O'Friel, governor of Risley, said he believed further violence may be unavoidable. "If the population rise continues, the risks we will

have to face of further disturbances are fast becoming unacceptable." The address has been seen as the latest in a series of warnings to the Home Secretary that the Government's reliance on imprisonment as the central plank of its penal policy is producing floods of inmates with which the system cannot cope.

Conference delegates voted unanimously for an emergency motion calling for urgent talks with the prison service to prevent a return to the "gross overcrowding of the past" and for members to lobby MPs challenging the "ill-considered penal policy of the present Government".

The latest prison population figures in England and Wales are put at 48,024, more than 500 above the certified level. They show a sharp rise of nearly 3,000 in the last two months and follow an overall increase of 7,000 last year. If the trend continues, prison governors predict there will be 52,000 people in custody by November this year.

Mr O'Friel's comments were echoed by Judge Turpin, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, who argued that the progress of recent years had

gone into reverse. He said: "There is a very serious risk of gross overcrowding upsetting the regime and turning prisons from places that are useful into overcrowded warehouses. It's a depressing, backward experience."

Derek Lewis, director-general of the prison service, tried to put an optimistic gloss on the situation, but also warned against the rapid increase in the prison population.

Mr Lewis told the BBC: "If the growth were to accelerate significantly from the sort that we've experienced in recent months, then yes it would put at risk a number of the improvements that we have planned."

But Mr Lewis also said the gradual reopening of new wings at Strangeways, the opening of a prison at Doncaster, the refurbishment of a detention centre at Buckley Hall, Rochdale, and new building at existing prisons would be enough to contain projected levels of inmates.

A Home Office spokesman said the opening of the rebuilt wings at Strangeways should put an end to the movement of prisoners from northwest England to the Midlands.

Cardboard counsel learns to live with silence in court



Julia Rawson, a Stafford College art student, prepares to give counsel a final trim in the last unconverted courtroom of Stafford's Shire Hall, which was turned into an art gallery last year. College art students used card and tape to repopulate the courtroom with judge, jury, defendant, witnesses and counsel for a design project evoking a murder trial from 1952, when the death penalty was still in force

Tories 'knew of prison fraud'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

MINISTERS failed to act on warnings six years ago that prisoners were defrauding the State of £9 million a year in illegal benefit claims.

The Department of Social Security has admitted that prison officers and probation officers told them about the claims by up to 4,000 prisoners. But they say that as it was only anecdotal evidence they were powerless to act.

The revelation has astonished Tory MPs who joined a standing ovation for Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, after his party conference speech last year which pledged a crackdown on "dole scroungers", particularly "foreigners" and single mothers.

Terry McLaren, of the Prison Officers' Association, said:

"Prison officers have known for years that prisoners were working scams like this."

A DSS official said: "We were provided with only anecdotal evidence that it was true."

Mr McLaren said that the government was under an obligation to put giro addressed to prisoners through the prison account so they could be cashed. He said: "It is an absurd situation. It's hardly anecdotal evidence."

John Marshall, an officer at Durham prison, claimed as many as eight cheques a day came inside for up to £400. "It's not only dole cheques but also sickness and mobility benefit," he said.

Harry Fletcher, of the probation officers' association,

said: "Individual probation officers have reported cases of fraud way back as far as 1988. It does seem extraordinary that no action was taken."

The DSS insisted last night that the loophole exploited by prisoners had now been closed. The spokesman said: "We are in a position to stop this fraud. We have already begun, the first sweep of prisoners to ensure that they are not receiving benefits."

Donald Dewar, shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "Taxpayers' money has been wasted because of ministerial incompetence and the failure of the DSS to talk to the Home Office. Peter Lilley never loses the opportunity to preach about fraud. The public would prefer action."

Privatised traffic patrols 'would be driven by profit'

BY TIM JONES AND STEWART TENDLER

ALLOWING private security guards to operate radar and camera traps to catch speeding motorists would lead to the law being influenced by profit and cause friction on the roads, the Government was told yesterday.

The Home Office has confirmed that a team is seeking to identify what the police regard as core functions and what jobs might be regarded as peripheral and done by civilians, contractors or auxiliary agencies such as traffic wardens.

Kevin Delaney, recently head of the Metropolitan police traffic branch and now the RAC's road safety man-

ager, said: "The introduction of the profit motive into law enforcement is not the route we should be following. It would lead to friction and tension which would probably have to be sorted out by police."

The Government hopes that the changes could release uniformed police for more essential work. Mr Delaney said, however: "Enforcement is to make roads safer, it is not an end to itself. The police, who are overstretched, have always exercised discretion when it comes to traffic rules."

At seven in the evening, at 90mph, the M25 becomes a killing field but at two in the morning it is empty. If enforcement is passed to the private sector, profit will become the dominant factor and discretion will go out of the window.

Mr Delaney said that motorists in some London boroughs had been alienated by privatised traffic wardens who were on profit-related systems. There were, however, some police functions which could be done by the private sector. "A very heavy or wide load could be escorted by private contractors instead of

two very expensive police cars, and the private sector could also become involved in the motorway breakdown service. At present, stranded motorists get through to the police and it is very time consuming."

The AA said it had written to the Home Office for clarification. A spokeswoman said: "Law enforcement must never be driven by profit. The police should always be responsible for moving traffic offences and be given sufficient resources to maintain the service."

The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, said there was concern about the possible hiving off of some police functions because it was feared that the Home Secretary would try to rush decisions without proper consultation. A federation spokesman said: "We would be concerned if it were any attempt to transfer police powers to the private sector because they are unaccountable."

The Home Office said the review has started by asking police forces, staff associations and local authorities to comment on a list of 85 jobs at present done by police.

Warmer seas block nature's plughole

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

A GIANT "natural plughole" that swallows much of the Earth's carbon dioxide is in danger of being blocked as the climate becomes warmer.

Scientists fear that the retreat of the Odden Feature, a huge tongue-shaped sheet of ice at the edge of the Arctic, will increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at a time when governments are trying to stabilise levels of air pollution.

The Odden Feature and two other sites in Labrador and Antarctica are believed to remove up to a fifth of the Earth's carbon dioxide by dissolving it in their surface waters. The natural filter system requires extremely cold, salty water. As the ice forms around the Odden Feature in winter, huge amounts of salt are discharged into the sea. This makes the surface waters denser, causing them to sink in plumes to the seabed, carrying with them the dissolved carbon dioxide. The pollutants are locked away among the ocean sediments for millions of years.

Dr Peter Wadhams, of the Scott Polar Institute in Cam-



bridge, believes that the Odden Feature has broken down as the Arctic Ocean becomes warmer. Tests have shown that the levels of carbon dioxide and the depths to which it sinks have slowed alarmingly in the past decade. It was sinking 4,000 metres to the seabed in 1984 but was going only half as far in 1989. Dr Wadhams told the Oceanology International '94 in Brighton yesterday that tests last year showed it was now reaching only 1,000 metres, far short of the depth needed to lock it away.

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A car crash victim yesterday received a £725,541 football pools cheque in hospital. Paul Thompson, 29, a salesman, of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, who is recovering from serious injuries at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, had not checked his coupon before a his wife Polly-Jane, 26, and a Littlewoods representative broke the news to him.

"This is just what the doctor ordered — the best pick-me-up I could have wished for," he said.

Twitchers flock

Hundreds of "twitchers" were converging on Pennington Flash Country Park near Leigh, Greater Manchester, to see a black-faced bunting from Siberia and northeastern China, a bird not previously recorded as a visitor.

Attacker shot

Police were questioning a man who shot one man and injured another when he apparently caught them assaulting his wife at an address at Bidenden, Kent. The man who was shot is not badly injured.

Gas for poultry

Legislation allowing poultry to be slaughtered by gassing — considered more humane than electrocution — is to be introduced as soon as possible, Gillian Shephard, the Minister of Agriculture, said.

Super starfish

A starfish with six legs, instead of the normal five, has been captured and put on display at the Seaside Centre in Southsea, Hampshire.

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REGIO

Protester barred by bishop from first women's ordination

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PROTESTER hoping to disrupt the first ordination of women priests on Saturday has been barred from the service.

The Bishop of Bristol, the Right Rev Barry Rogerson, has refused a ticket for Hugh Pratt, a prominent layman in the diocese who was chosen to demonstrate by traditionalists in the Church of England. The bishop will ordain 33 women at his cathedral.

Protesters are claiming as precedent the silent vigils and action by women at services at which only men have been ordained. When the bishop asks the people of the diocese: "Is it therefore your will that they should be ordained?", opponents intend to say: "It is not. This is not an action of the whole Church, nor is the General Synod of the Church of England empowered to authorise it."

Mr Pratt represents Forward in Faith, an umbrella group for opponents of women's ordination.

His church, St Mary Redcliffe, will have two women priests on Saturday.

He said it was unscriptural to ordain women priests. "If synod took the vote that dogs could become priests, it might get a majority in all three houses [of bishops, priests and laity] but it is meaningless."

Bishop Rogerson, writing to Mr Pratt to refuse him entry, said it was a ticket-only service "on grounds of fairness, orderliness and public safety. The question to the people in the ordination service is not intended to provide an opportunity for public objections or demonstrations."

The correct response was clearly set out. Bishop Rogerson wrote: "Departure from the printed service and/or interruptions at this or any other point would be most inappropriate."

After Bristol, women will be ordained in Sheffield, Oxford, London, Winchester and elsewhere throughout March.

April and May. More than 1,000 women are expected to be ordained priest this year.

Other bishops are expected to thwart protesters by refusing to give them tickets.

A vicar who said women priests should be burnt or shot was told yesterday to live with change or leave the Church of England.

The Rev Anthony Kennedy, 62, vicar of Lutton with Gedney Drove End and Dawsmere, Lincolnshire, said "priestesses" who assumed powers to which they had no right should be burnt at the stake, as they were in medieval times.

The Rev Eric Shegog, the Church's director of communications, said: "The majority of people in the Church voted in favour of women priests and that's a fact of life. Mr Kennedy's got to live with this. If he doesn't like it then the Church has been generous in making financial provisions for those who want to leave."

Gielgud a name too far for the West End

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

HUNDREDS of theatre stars have been thwarted in their attempt to rename a West End theatre after Sir John Gielgud in time for his 90th birthday. Stoll Moss, which owns 11 West End theatres, has stalled the project, saying the Gielgud name may be too high-brow for theatreland, which is increasingly dominated by musicals.

More than 400 people, forming a roll-call of British theatre, have backed the campaign to rename the Apollo Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue, where Gielgud made his last West End appearance six years ago in the acclaimed *The Best of Friends*.

An earlier plan to rename the Queens Theatre, also owned by Stoll Moss, has been cancelled. Nica Burns, production director at Stoll Moss, said: "Doesn't the name John Gielgud itself sort of say 'drama'? And the Queens is putting on more musical work. If you want to change the name of a theatre to something as specific as the Gielgud, you need to open it with an appropriate production." She said Gielgud would be 90 on April 14, and there was no time to plan for an "appropriate" first night.

Toby Roland, former theatre producer and a friend of the actor, said support for the move could not be ignored. He has received hundreds of letters from theatrical names including Albert Finney, Harold Pinter, Derek Jacobi.

Sir Peter Hall and Dame Judi Dench. The actor himself wants a quiet birthday with "little fuss", but would be "thrilled" if the plan went ahead.



Sir John Gielgud in his last West End appearance six years ago in *The Best of Friends* at the Apollo

Tour sites urged to attract disabled

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MILLIONS of people are denied visits to popular tourist attractions, amusement parks and heritage sites because they are elderly, disabled, pregnant or injured, a report by the English Tourist Board says today.

Many think of themselves as "inconvenienced" rather than disabled, but are discouraged from visiting museums, castles and gardens because of poor access and inadequate facilities, the report says. *Tourism for All - Providing Accessible Visitor Attractions*, is published the day before MPs vote on a Bill to outlaw discrimination against the disabled.

The board is calling for better provision for the six million disabled adults and for the increasing number of retired people.

Bob Donaldson, an adviser to the Wales Tourist Board and a wheelchair user for 20 years, was commissioned to write the report. He said: "While castle battlements may have to be surrendered to the fit and energetic, the castle green and great hall can be conquered by the disabled. An exhibit's fine detail may not be visible but its concept and form can be communicated and admired through sound and touch."

The report gives details of how much passing space is

needed for wheelchairs and prams; the recommended height of ticket booths; and exercise areas for guide dogs.

It says planners should avoid revolving doors, stairs and kissing gates, which are difficult for the disabled to negotiate; narrow, heavy doors and flights of steps, which are daunting for families with pushchairs; and highly polished surfaces, which are dangerous for children, the elderly, and those with sticks or crutches.

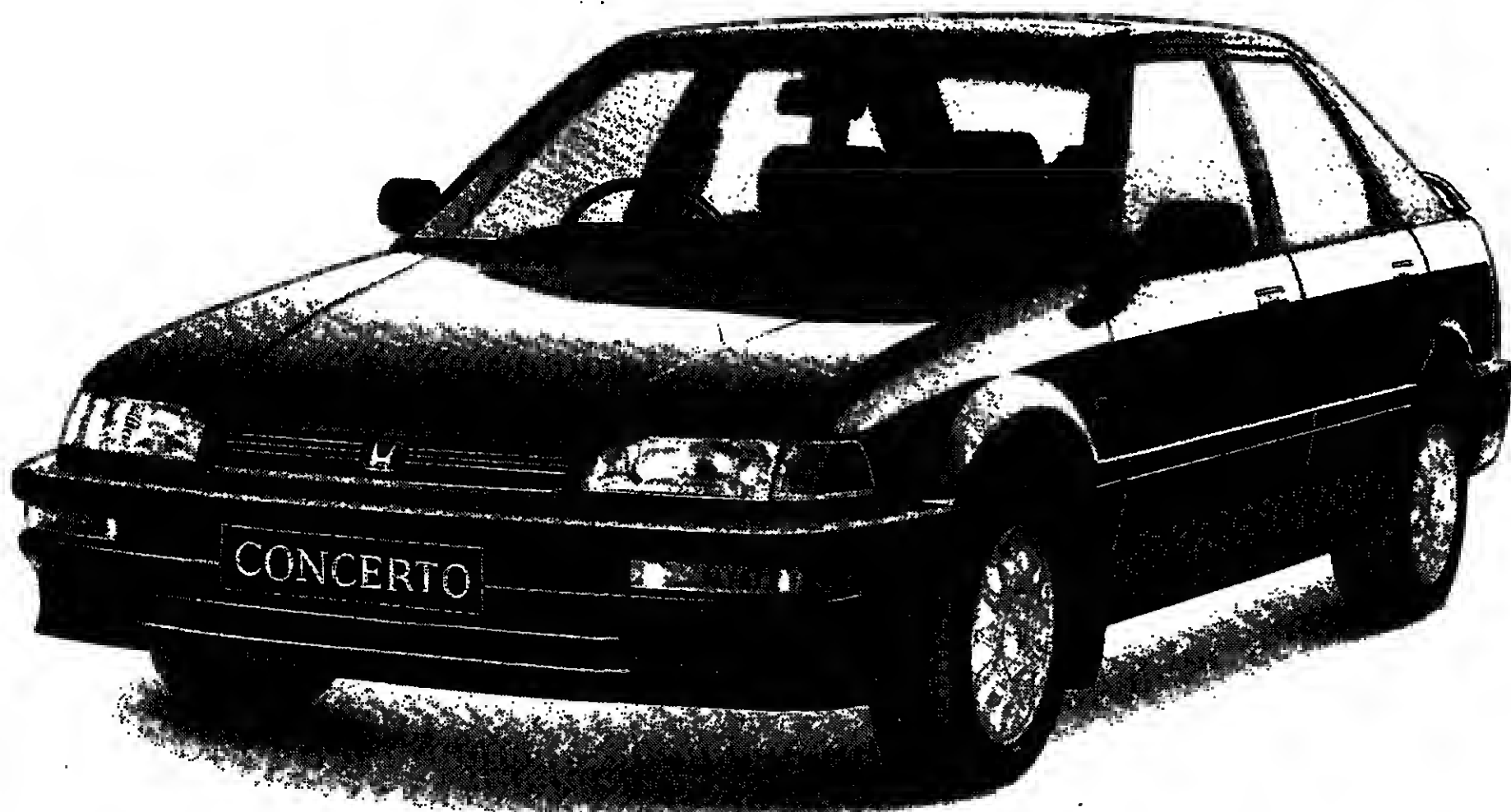
The MP Alf Morris, who was minister for the disabled in the last Labour Government, said that the report was positive and hopeful. He said that there were significant financial benefits for organisations which catered for the disabled. "It makes good business sense because a whole family will make a decision on where to go based on the needs of its one disabled member."

Dr Roger Berry, Labour MP for Kingswood, who is putting forward the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill for a second reading in the House of Commons tomorrow, said that access at many tourist attractions was inadequate.

John East, chief executive of the English Tourist Board, said the largely untapped market was worth millions.

Travel, pages 22, 23

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Politician with
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Waldegrave slip opens door to the real world

THE row over William Waldegrave's remarks about truth and the Commons is mostly ephemeral nonsense. As he said yesterday, it was "a completely mad situation" inflated out of all proportion. The problem is not the very rare instances when ministers deliberately lie to the Commons but the Whitehall culture which much more often produces incomplete statements.

Mr Waldegrave's words are politically clumsy, given all the concentration at present on ministerial honesty over the Pergau dam and Iraqi exports affairs. They are an unwelcome distraction for the Government.

But Mr Waldegrave has always been an unusual politician, more interested in ideas than sound-bites. He is no Norman Tebbit or Michael Heseltine. His natural candour can, as in this case, border on naivety.

Characteristically, he spent an hour yesterday morning addressing two dozen people at a Social Market Foundation seminar on the theme of "Recruiting to the Little Platons", a reference to Edmund Burke. Members of the Commons, Friedman and Hayek cropped up in his elegant attempt to provide a philosophical underpinning for the changes in public services. More typically, he noted Enoch Powell's aphorism that politicians complaining about the press are like sailors complaining about the sea.

All Mr Waldegrave said to the Treasury committee on Tuesday was that in exceptional circumstances ministers might "say something that is untrue to the House of Commons". His examples of Chancellors lying when trying to defend the pound before a devaluation turn out not to be so clearcut, as Lord Callaghan protested yesterday over his comments in November 1967. The fuss over lying is an irrelevant cul de sac of self-righteousness and rare past cases.

The real issue is Mr Waldegrave's other comment that "much of government activity is much more like

playing poker than playing chess. You don't put all your cards up at one time." That touches on the remark by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to the Scott enquiry that it was possible for ministers to give Parliament "an accurate but incomplete answer". He later added that: "In the real world, it is frequently the case that one cannot say all one knows. In that situation one should avoid misleading, if one possibly can." That is a more frequent dilemma and raises a potential conflict with paragraph 27 of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, which lays a duty on ministers "not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public".

Ministers and civil servants treat questions and appearances before select committees as part of a running battle of manoeuvre with the Opposition. That is inevitable under the adversarial system at Westminster and the only unusual point about Scott is that the enquiry has found ministers out in their efforts to hide what was happening.

The difficulty is where to draw the line. When does an incomplete statement become misleading? Even though more policy options should be revealed, as they increasingly are, civil service advice to ministers has to remain confidential, otherwise collective decision-making would break down. The culture of Whitehall can take this to absurd extremes of secrecy, refusing to concede that a policy is being considered until a decision is announced.

To his credit, Mr Waldegrave has been trying to open up the workings of government. Instead of behaving like the terrified characters in a Bateman cartoon, MPs and the press should recognise his remarks as an admission, however uncomfortably frank, of what happens in the real world. He should be commended for his honesty, rather than condemned.

PETER RIDDELL

Robert Rhodes James, 16 Letters, 17

Politician with too much imagination

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

He has been called the ideal male escort for the more sophisticated woman and the "nicest" MP in the Commons, but William Waldegrave appears more at home in the cloistered halls of Oxford than the green benches of Westminster.

A former Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, Mr Waldegrave, 47, is possibly the most cerebral man in the Cabinet. An old Etonian and the son of a peer, he was president of the Oxford Union and Oxford University Conservative Association and graduated with a first class degree.

As a young man, stories about his brilliance abounded. At university he was reputed to have walked out of his finals after half an hour, flinging down his exam papers on the way, saying: "There's a first in the bag."

In the mid-1970s he served in the Cabinet Office "think tank", was a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit and head of Opposition Leader Edward Heath's office. He had a smooth path to enter Parliament as MP for Bristol West in 1979 and within two years was elevated to junior Education Minister under Sir Keith Joseph. But he still managed to balance a family life, marrying Caroline, much admired by his colleagues for her culinary career and elegance, and threw himself into family life, attending the births of all four of his children and ante-natal classes.

Even in the 1980s, when sharp suits and natty newsmen were more admired than scholarly learning, Mr Waldegrave managed to bob above the rest, first as an environment minister and then at the Foreign Office. Here, although he committed a

couple of gaffes such as reminding Israel's leaders of their terrorist predecessors and being a fervent champion of the poll tax, he still appeared to lead a charmed life.

But the 1990s have proved his undoing. Promoted to Health Secretary to smooth ruffled feathers after Kenneth Clarke's departure, Mr Waldegrave withered under a barrage of critical questioning from Labour's Robin Cook and the media. He once admitted that four-fifths of hospital beds had financial problems when they were given trust status in April 1991 and he completely fluffed a press conference during the 1992 election.

Demotion to "minister of paperclips" as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster was inevitable. Most men would have balked when asked to take on the Citizen's Charter and develop "Majorism" as a political philosophy of the 1990s, but Mr Waldegrave has bagged away good-naturedly and has also taken on the thankless task of explaining why science is underfunded.

It is his role as minister for open government that has made him cringe. He stands accused of not telling Parliament that the ground rules had changed over arm sales to Iraq while he was at the Foreign Office. The accusation surfaced at the Scott enquiry the day he launched his white paper. Although he is now trying his best to sweep away obsessive secrecy from Whitehall, he has always preferred the word "confidential".

As he once said: "The trouble is I have a capacity to analyse problems and see all the things that could go wrong. In a way it is having too much imagination."



6 I have nothing to add to or subtract from anything I have said on the subject of devaluation ? — James Callaghan, 1967



6 In exceptional cases it is necessary to say something that is untrue to the Commons ? — William Waldegrave



6 His Majesty's Government have not the slightest intention of devaluing the pound ? — Sir Stafford Cripps, July 6, 1949

Stonewalling Callaghan steered round parliamentary trap

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

LORD Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, robustly defended himself yesterday against charges that he had misled Parliament during the 1967 devaluation crisis, when he was Chancellor. He said he had stonewalled but never lied as he tried to hold off the speculators.

The record suggests that neither

Lord Callaghan, nor Sir Stafford Cripps, the other former Labour Chancellor called in aid by William Waldegrave on Tuesday, can be accused of having told untruths.

James Callaghan, as he was then, just steered clear of this political mantrap. Two days before the 1967 devaluation he had to face a private notice question in the Commons on the Government's reported decision to negotiate a \$1,000 million loan

with foreign banks. But only that morning the Cabinet had decided to devalue. The announcement was to come two days later.

Stanley Orme, still a Labour MP today, put the most direct question. "Would my right hon friend agree that if the difference is between a reduction in public expenditure at home, a wage freeze and the introduction of a regulator and devaluation, devaluation is preferable to

those three things?" Mr Callaghan replied: "I have nothing to add to or subtract from anything I have said on previous occasions on the subject of devaluation."

Sir Stafford Cripps sailed closer to the wind, but could hardly be accused of lying. In the Commons on July 6, 1949, he was asked: "Could the right hon and learned gentleman add anything to what he said this afternoon on the question of the

devaluation of the pound." The Chancellor replied: "His Majesty's Government have not the slightest intention of devaluing the pound." That was more than two months before he announced on September 18 that the pound would be devalued. It could be argued that on July 6 he had no present intention of devaluing, although his use of the word "slightest" seems to have been over-egging the pudding.

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British appeal raises less than half of troops required for Bosnia

By JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN'S initiative to muster new peacekeepers for Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday failed to raise even half the number required, adding to pressure for the Government to make a big troop contribution of its own.

A 19-nation meeting hosted by Britain in New York drew limited offers of new troops from Turkey, France, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Argentina. Some other countries, such as Canada, said they were still considering making new troop contributions.

The meeting came as Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, visited the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Wiltshire on the eve of a Cabinet decision expected to send a battalion of 900 to Bosnia at the weekend.

A source at the closed session in New York said the total under consideration was less than half the 10,650 that the United Nations has requested to consolidate troops in Sarajevo and central Bosnia. Another source said the total was only 4,000 new men.

The senior UN official at the meeting told delegates that he was not encouraged by the outcome. He even suggested that the 1,200 Bangladeshis offered for UN duty last autumn but unable to take up position because of a lack of equipment should be reconsidered. Countries unable or unwilling

■ Britain has encountered serious reluctance by other countries to commit more peacekeepers to the Balkans. Now the pressure is on for the Government to make a big contribution of its own

ing to provide troops of their own should offer to equip the Bangladeshis instead, he said.

France, which has the largest contingent of UN troops in the Balkans, offered to provide 800 new troops for Sarajevo, but on condition that it be allowed to withdraw a similar number from Croatia in three months' time.

Turkey made good on its longstanding offer to provide men but started with a low bid in order not to alarm countries such as Russia.

America, which has steadfastly refused to send ground troops, is still considering if it can increase its present 300-strong force in Macedonia to free some 400 Nordic troops to move to Bosnia.

A British charity will send contraceptives worth £1 million to Bosnia next week to curb the rising abortion rate (Tom Rhodes writes). Mary Stopes International has received Overseas Development Administration funding to supply 500,000 contraceptive pills, 300,000 condoms and 6,000 intra-uterine devices to centres of conflict.

Washington is also considering an airlift to get new peacekeepers from other countries into Bosnia.

In Zagreb yesterday, Charles Redman and Peter Galbraith, the American peace envoys, said that "enormous progress" had been made in negotiations to set up a Croat-Muslim federation in Bosnia, but real peace would be elusive unless rebel Serbs were prepared to enter talks.

Mate Granic, the Croatian Foreign Minister, and Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, were in Moscow yesterday to discuss the federation plan with Russian leaders who still have reservations about it. Vitali Churkin, President Yeltsin's personal envoy to the region, indicated after talks with Mr Silajdzic and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, that Moscow was withholding full endorsement of the American-sponsored plan.

□ Bonn: Germany yesterday called off the deportation of illegal refugees from the rump Yugoslavia because of objections by Romania, which was to have been used as a transit route.

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French UN peacekeepers tighten security by clearing mines round Tuzla airport before the resumption of humanitarian aid flights

Croat ceasefire turns heroes into villains

War gave him prestige and power: now he is on the run. Anthony Loyd bids an uneasy farewell to a notorious killer at Zagreb airport



The killer's face detached itself from the crowd of passengers and he walked purposefully towards the table at which I sat drinking coffee. He pulled out a cane chair and sat down, draping an arm nonchalantly over the armrest, moving easily for a man recently shot three times.

"You're a long way from Vitez," he commented, smiling. The departure lounge at Zagreb airport was indeed a world away from the urban destruction of the central Bosnian town. But the Muslim-Croat federation and the prospect of peace has made strange bedfellows, and has turned men once feared for their ruthlessness into embarrassed to their own side, perhaps even pariahs. Such men are now on the run, looking for other wars, other conflicts.

He ordered coffee and lit a cigarette, pausing to flick a piece of imagined ash from the sleeve of his expensive leather jacket. The last time I had seen him, three months earlier, he had been decked out in bandoliers and chest webbing, grenade-laden, pistol on his hip, Hechler-Koch machinegun in his hand; a large, powerful man whose German army combat dress and expensive boots lifted him far above the rag-tag uniform worn by so many of his Croatian comrades.

His courage and initiative had been legendary among his men. Soon after the beginning of the Croat-Muslim war he rose to become commander of a quasi special forces group operating in the Laska valley. His forays against Muslim positions were often conducted with complete disregard for his own safety: he would call out to his adversaries, many of whom he knew personally, seemingly unmoved by the angry crackling of return fire. Describing his pre-war profession as "businessman", he had acquired a white Mercedes which he ostentatiously drove between missions, accompanied by an "inner circle" of gun-toting henchmen. He once presented a silver Colt .45 to a senior United Nations officer as a present.

"There are better shots, but there are no better killers," one of his men said of him. The Muslims accused him of not

only being involved in the massacre of civilians at Ahinid last year, but of controlling the precision of the massacre. Certainly a degree of coordination unusual in any but a few of the Croat HVO commanders.

But dissatisfaction began to grow among senior Croat officers in the valley, unnerved by his growing power and angered by his arrogance. Rumours of the killer's extensive black marketeering activities began to flourish. One December day a burst of gunfire from his own lines greeted his car's arrival.

Characteristically he survived, though badly wounded. He was evacuated shortly afterwards on a Croatian army helicopter to a hospital in Split. When half-recovered he discharged himself and disappeared.

The issue of war crimes is one of great sensitivity in the Croat-Muslim ceasefire. "We must have them. Everybody responsible for a war crime must come to trial," said Seljka Dzadic, the Muslim commander in Stari Vitez, a few days after the current ceasefire began.

Others express a more open-minded approach. "I don't care if they never come to trial, it would be too complicated," said another Muslim officer. "But they must go. Australia, South America, anywhere, but they must go."

Various cosmetic changes have already taken place within the command structures of both sides in central Bosnia in the interests of preserving the ceasefire and moving closer towards the vision of federation. More notorious officers are being discreetly moved aside, with less well-known but more respectable individuals taking their place to talk of peace.

"War is strange," said the killer suddenly. "This talk of peace, and I become the political enemy of even my own side."

War had given him power and prestige. But the subsiding tide of violence in the Laska valley means he is now a hunted man. He stood up, extended his hand, grinned and shrugged. "Well, see you in South America," he said.

Pakistan stops UN vote on Kashmir

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ONLY minutes before a vote, Pakistan yesterday withdrew a motion at a United Nations human rights meeting that would have condemned India for alleged violations in Kashmir. The decision not to press for a vote in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva was taken after strong requests from Iran and China, which Asf Ali Zardari, the Foreign Minister, said Pakistan could not ignore.

The issue was brought by Pakistan to the commission last month, but India launched a strong counter-campaign, and Pakistan's motion was unlikely to have been passed, with most of the 53 members planning to abstain. It would have called for a fact-finding mission to investigate abuses by the Indian army, a move that would have heightened tensions between the two countries. Iran said that India was instead ready to facilitate a visit to Kashmir by envoys from Muslim nations.

Western countries welcomed Pakistan's withdrawal, which follows a decision to drop a similar motion in the UN General Assembly. They said the important thing was to improve relations between the two countries, which have fought three wars over Kashmir since their independence. This would not be helped by public condemnations.

Kashmir will be a main issue in talks in London this coming week between P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, and John Major. Britain has offered to play a mediating role, and yesterday the Pakistan High Commission in London urged Britain to seize the initiative. "There are thousands of people in this country of Kashmiri origin who have great attachment to Kashmir," said Moeen Jan Naim, the Deputy High Commissioner.

He urged Mr Major to persuade India to stop repression in Kashmir, a pre-condition that Pakistan has set for direct talks on the dispute.

Mr Naim said Pakistan was eager to encourage the best possible relations between Britain and India, and welcomed Mr Narasimha Rao's visit, which begins on Sunday. He did not see this as against Pakistan's interests. But he said India must be made aware of the weight of public opinion. "The time has come to think about the future of the subcontinent as a whole. Both



Narasimha Rao: talks with John Major

countries have spent enough money on weapons. How long can this situation go on, depriving the teeming millions from the opportunity to improve their lot?"

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said last year that the Kashmir dispute had gone on too long with too big a toll. Nearly 10,000 people are estimated to have died since 1989 when the Muslim militant campaign for an independent homeland became violent.

Pakistan had hoped for strong support, but only Bosnia and Saudi Arabia supported its resolution.

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Right-wing leader turns on the charm to be housewives' choice

Italian media tycoon woos women voters

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SILVIO Berlusconi, the media tycoon, launched his election campaign in the Italian capital yesterday by wooing leaders of the powerful 800,000-strong housewives' federation.

Signor Berlusconi, 57, played to his reputation as a ladies' man during a meeting with 50 matriarchs in advance of the March 27-28 parliamentary poll. "I am sorry to be late, I don't normally keep women waiting," he said before launching into a glowing eulogy of housewifely values.

Federica Gasparri, the federation's president, said the encounter had followed three months of negotiations. These had led her group to throw its weight behind the right-wing Forza Italia group led by Signor Berlusconi.

Forza Italia has incorporated into its programme demands by the federation for state aid for mothers, laws that give housewives pensions and other employee rights,

and tax relief for families. "His presence here set the seal on our accord," Signora Gasparri said. "My feeling is that professional politicians easily make promises and easily forget them. But a

Caltanissetta: A judge in Sicily, Gilda Lo Forlì, yesterday ordered that four men would stand trial in October for the bombing murder of Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge, and his five bodyguards in July 1992, judicial officials said. (Reuters)

businessman is more used to keeping his word. I am satisfied," she added.

The women's vote is crucial for Signor Berlusconi in his battle to become Italy's next Prime Minister in alliance with neo-Fascists and the de-volutionist Northern League.

Independent opinion polls put Forza Italia neck-and-neck with the Democratic Party of the Left, formerly the Communists, whose three-married leader, Achille Occhetto, also sets middle-aged women's hearts racing.

Standing as a candidate in Rome's high-profile No.1 Constituency, where the left's candidate is Luigi Spaventa, the dynamic British-educated Budget Minister who is nicknamed "The Doberman" for his pugnacious style, Signor Berlusconi faces an uphill battle.

Later yesterday, together with Giancarlo Fini, the neo-Fascist leader, Signor Berlusconi was to be guest of honour at an exclusive reception given by the Princess Pallavicini, a leading figure of the Roman "black aristocracy", at her Renaissance palace on the Quirinal Hill.

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Silvio Berlusconi arriving at a hotel in Rome yesterday for a meeting with a delegation from the politically powerful Italian housewives' federation

German troops play war games without blanks

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN soldiers are being forced to shout "bang, bang" when they confront the enemy during manoeuvres because of a lack of blank ammunition. German tank crews have to sprout out their turrets and yell "boom, boom".

These and other reports of financial stringency were published yesterday by the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, who gave a warning of falling morale in one of Europe's biggest armies. Alfred Biele, a parliamentary deputy who has spent the past year listening to soldiers' complaints, said budget problems, coupled with political indecision over peacekeeping missions, had propelled the Bundeswehr into an identity crisis.

"The motivation of many soldiers has been damaged," Herr Biele said in his annual report. "Many officers are depressed by the stark disparity between their mission and the means available to carry it out. Instructors are justifiably afraid of losing their authority." The report presented a catalogue of cost-cutting mea-

sures. A company training with mortars, grenades or hand-held rocket launchers was usually required to hit five targets during a military exercise. However, if the first three shots were successful, the troops could go home and the munitions were saved.

Training flights have been cut down to a minimum and annual flight hours for the German air force now total 150 a year, compared with the Nato standard of 180. Units are complaining that they have to wait three months for spare parts for their tanks.

One symptom of the declining morale is the large number of conscientious objectors. The number of conscripts (155,000) is now almost matched by the number of Germans (131,000) performing civilian service in hospitals and elsewhere. The German army has commissioned a new series of television advertisements to boost the image of the soldier. One shows an air force dispatcher on a German transport plane dropping crates of food into Bosnia.

Britain's opt-out on hours for child workers at risk

BY GEORGE BROCK AND LUCY BERRINGTON

THE European Parliament moved yesterday to bring Britain into line with the rest of Europe over conditions for young workers between the ages of 13 and 18. The Parliament last night began moves to reverse two British opt-outs from a planned European Union law limiting working hours for teenagers.

Last year David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, negotiated British exemptions from an EU directive on young workers until at least the end of the century. The directive would prevent 13-15 year-olds working more than 12 hours a week and Mr Hunt claimed that this would stop children doing a paper round and a Saturday job. He wanted the limit set at 17 hours a week.

The other opt-out struck down yesterday would have limited weekly working hours for 16 and 17-year-olds to 35 hours. That exemption can probably be restored when the directive goes back to EU ministers. But Britain will have great difficulty restoring the 13 and 15-year-old opt-out because it requires the unanimous support of all 12 EU governments. British newspapers vowed last night to fight the new threat to 400,000 paperboys and girls. David Daniel, secretary of the 28,000-strong National Federation of Newsagents, said: "This is a tradition unique to this country, and Brussels should mind its own business."

Europe is not receptive to regulations on child and teenage labour, although the need for legislation is acknowledged. Southern Italy, and Naples in particular, is notorious for its exploitation of child labour, but if the Italian Social Democrats come to power in the October election, there will be renewed pressure to boycott imports from countries or companies

known to employ cheap child labour. Both the Social Democrats, and their probable coalition partner, the Greens, were impressed by the efforts of US Senator Tom Harkin to ban the American import of goods produced by children under 15 years old.

Many countries accept EU regulations on child workers, but are unable to enforce them.

In Mediterranean countries child labour is a fact of everyday life. Visitors to Athens can see that many vendors at the ubiquitous fruit and vegetable markets are children under 12. Motorists stopped at traffic lights are accosted by sly and Albanian children, often barefoot even in winter, wiping wind-screens or just begging for spare drachmas.

A spokesman for the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Security admitted yesterday that it was impossible to estimate how many minors under the legal minimum age of 16, work in the country's large black economy. Northern Europe is comparatively well policed. The German authorities make regular checks on young workers in bars and restaurants in the big cities, such as Frankfurt and Berlin, but rarely catch any illegally employed children. Children under 14 are forbidden to work.

Employers, wary of the big fines and possible prison terms, tend to police themselves. In practice, Germany's comprehensive system of vocational training keeps almost all children in the educational system at least until the age of 18.

This apprenticeship system is seen as the key to a proper adult job by many under-16-year-olds, though some of these apprenticeships are nevertheless viewed as exploitative.

Leading article, page 17

European entry talks fail to end deadlock

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union enlargement talks in Brussels broke up early yesterday after failure to agree on either the Spanish demand for access to Norwegian fishing waters or changing the voting system in the Council of Ministers.

Germany urged Spain to compromise on the fishing dispute, the last obstacle preventing Norway from agreeing to entry terms. "In my opinion a compromise must have been possible," said Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister. "Now Spain has to move."

Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek European Affairs Minister, who chaired the meeting, said the talks had failed because there was a lack of

political will among the Twelve. Mr Pangalos is said to have shouted at the Spanish delegation that "one fish cannot stop the enlargement of the Community." Norway has said throughout the talks that it would not give up one extra fish to satisfy Spain.

Spain is supporting Britain in opposing any change to the voting system which would diminish the ability to veto legislation. If Britain refuses to back down, it will be attacked for scuppering enlargement, a process it has always supported. But any softening of the position would enrage the Euro-sceptics, who would accuse the Government of giving up vital controls on the power of Brussels.

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Star with a fat chance

Brought up in a council house by deaf parents, Richard Griffiths is an unlikely hit, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

Richard Griffiths sighs when I ask about his next role. He is starring as a former policeman turned restaurateur in a new BBC drama series *Pie in the Sky*, which starts on Sunday. Ahem. How can I put this? Was there possibly some typecasting here? For Griffiths is very fat. He won't say how much he weighs, but 20 stone is thought a fair estimate. He is 46, but could be 10 years older. Sitting back in his chair in the bar at the National Theatre he looks like the ghost of Orson Welles.

"Well, I suppose the popular imagination would have it that chefs must be fat," he says in his seductive, flat-vowelled tones. "In fact most of the chefs I have known are as thin as lathes."

It seems inevitable that a man of Griffiths's size will spend a fair part of his career playing jolly dolls and greedy buffoons — such as the lascivious Uncle Monty in the cult film *Withnail and I*. Many actors might envy such a marketable feature. But Griffiths, who recalls teenage agonies when girls only wanted to be his friend, finds it depressing. He is so irritated by his weight that he now refuses parts that actively call for a fat person.

"If the cast list says Joe Bloggs, I will say 'Fine'. If it says Joe Bloggs (very fat), I will say 'Go get lost'," he says. One of his most dispiriting experiences was when he was offered the part of Friar Tuck in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, which starred Kevin Costner. "Typical, I thought," he refused, hoping for a better offer from a rival production with Jack Nicholson and was rewarded with the part of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Two days later the project folded and he was left with nothing.

At the moment he is playing the title role in David Hare's production of Brecht's *The Life of Galileo* at the Almeida Theatre, London. Galileo is not necessarily a fat man's role, but Griffiths's corpulence adds to the sense of the scientist's sensuality, a quality that leads him to undress before the torture instruments of the Inquisition. His performance has attracted adjectives such as "outstanding", "commanding" and "masterful".

For Griffiths, the play, which ends on March 31, has been a revelation. "David Hare has rescued Brecht for me," he says. "Usually, his theatre is all incoherence, dull and patronising. He wants to spell everything out to the working man, repeating everything four times. The kind of audience you get at the Almeida is too sophisticated for that. Hare has ripped all that away. He has done the work of a forerunner."

It is a metaphor that could also be applied to Griffiths, whose girth belies a sensitive, soft-spoken man. Unfairly, you expect him to bellow extravagantly; instead he charms quietly, receding off a string of theatrical anecdotes in a laconic deadpan. His delicacy is the result of a "perverse" childhood in a council house in Teseide. Both his parents were deaf mutes and Griffiths grew up without music or



Richard Griffiths, brought up in Manchester, says of the North: "I never really liked it. There's nothing there for the likes of me."

sound. Until he went to school at the age of five he had spoken to nobody except a French babysitter who lived across the corridor.

His mother went through seven more pregnancies, but only John, born when Griffiths was six, survived more than a few days.

"It was pretty different," he says, dragging lightly on a cigarette. "but it was good. It helped my imagination hugely. I was reading from the age of three. If you are used to silence, it's not threatening. I still hate extraneous noise."

His father was a steel worker, with an unfulfilled passion for painting; his mother was a seamstress and a great dancer. "It was a mystery to me. She would watch the conductor's baton at the dance hall and think 'Oh, yes a waltz and off she'd go. No one would have ever known that she was deaf'."

All communication was in sign language, which made Griffiths

very sensitive to gesture and movement. He was bemused to see his first theatrical show, *The Gondoliers*, performed by the touring D'Oyly Carte, because the singers "were just moving from A to B. They didn't realise that their bodies could be used to express so much."

After school, he studied art, but was put off by his generation's insistence on painting nothing but "rainbows on twigs". In any case, he was intimidated by the realisation that Rembrandt or Velázquez, his heroes, had produced some of their greatest works at his age. "I knew I would never be a front ranker and I couldn't accept that."

He had no inhibitions about acting, however, because he had barely seen any. His father regarded the theatre as the "ultimate poetry" and was appalled when his son switched to drama. He

studied at the Northern College of Music in Manchester.

He is unsentimental about the North and has not been back since his father died in 1976. "I never really liked it. I found it unnecessarily hard, tough and ignorant. There's nothing there for the likes of me."

He loves the theatre precisely because of its "wonderful degree of tolerance", which his early surroundings lacked. His memories of poverty made him lose all faith in politics, or religion. The theatre, he feels, at least tries to do something for the spirit.

Most of the time, however, the spirit must take second place to survival. Griffiths has a large house to keep in Stratford-upon-Avon where he lives with his wife Heather. Despite his roles in films such as *The Naked Gun* and *A Private Function* and ten years with the Royal Shakespeare Com-

pary, bowing out in the roles of Volpone and, of course, Henry VIII, there have been times when he has under 12 weeks' notice to quit his home. "I only worked four weeks in 1991 to 1992; it was the worst feeling."

Time spent at the Almeida is a luxury that he cannot altogether afford. "It's quite a sacrifice for me financially, because they haven't got any money. But what they do have is the aspiration to do the best possible work. You earn your money in television and then you give it back by doing the theatre."

At the moment he is fully booked until 1995, "a new experience", he says. He is making a film called *Funny Bones* with Jerry Lewis and Oliver Reed. Then he will start a second series of *Pie in the Sky*. "So I've got the house for this year at least." His face cranks up into a heartbreaking, crinkly smile.

Families taxed into retreat

Children today have become an unaffordable luxury. More generous family allowances are essential

At first sight the Institute of Economic Affairs has made a rum sort of contribution to International Women's Day with its collection of essays entitled *Liberating Women... from Modern Feminism*. It is more amusing than edifying to see Eysenck's old colleague Dr Glenn Wilson trying to demolish the notion of the "glass ceiling" in the workplace through his theory that women's assertiveness can be measured by the length of their fingers.

Perhaps he is just trying to create a market for finger-measuring kits among male personnel directors who are, he concedes, innately less likely to be good at picking people than their female counterparts. In Dr Wilson's view the men owe their promotion, and indeed virtually any kind of achievement, to their testosterone, ie, their maleness. So strongly does he believe in the magical powers of testosterone that he would like to explain away the occasional high-achieving woman as a kind of honorary man whose mother must have taken male hormones while she was pregnant.



MARGOT NORMAN

I think we can safely explain away this essay as a bid for funds to research the antenatal diets of the mothers of Margaret Thatcher, Dorothy Hodgkin and Mother Teresa. It would be a mistake, though, to take anything but seriously the essay "Double Income, No Kids: The Case for a Family Wage" by the sociologist Patricia Morgan. She focuses on the dilemma of Shirley from Luton who, at 35, is dying to have children but can't afford to give up work because of the mortgage repayments. She is afraid of missing the boat altogether: she feels as if she has an illness for which there is no cure.

Her sickness is, as Morgan says, endemic on both sides of the Atlantic. For two decades births have been insufficient to replace the population, and the birth rate for dual-earner couples is even lower than that of the general population. The main reason for this is not an infertility epidemic but money. What concerns her is the way that tax and employment changes brought about since the 1960s, largely because women wanted to make more productive and satisfying use of their time, have wound up penalising families by making children an unaffordable luxury for the Shirley's of the western world.

Blaming "modern feminism" — the group-rights sort as opposed to the classical liberal, individualist sort — is, of course, a bit like explaining the abolition of slavery purely in terms of William Wilberforce's moral arguments and ignoring the part played by the price of sugar. The Treasury was happy to freeze the Married Couple's Allowance because it stood to make £1,750 million, and happy to restrict relief to the lowest (20 per cent) tax rate, as that will save a further £900 million this year.

that was the attraction, not pressure from equality activists. Whatever the explanation, the result is, as Morgan says, to get rid of the only remaining recognition of the extra costs of those with family responsibilities in our tax system (after the abolition of child tax allowances), to drive another nail into the coffin of the family wage, and to put the one-income family in the same income tax position as a single, childless person, since the family will, at the same time, be paying more in local taxation.

It is not the highly skilled, high-earning "Dinkies" who are priced out of having children by the system, but the couples earning £20,000 to £30,000 between them. Even if they decide to forego the wife's earnings while she has a child — probably squaring the financial circle by using her savings —

the husband will have to pay more tax as a single earner than he did as half of an employed couple. As Morgan says, all the paternal effort in the world won't keep a family if it is taxed away. At the very least, Nigel Lawson's defeated attempt to introduce tax allowances that were fully transferred between family members should be revived.

"At present", Morgan writes, "not only is social security expenditure dominated by the growing bill for state pensions, but a vast and fast increasing amount of tax relief is available to provide for decades of affluent leisure when there are no dependent children, while families are suffering a worsening deficit of time and resources for investment in the future productivity of the nation. Societies can function without retirement — indeed, mass provision of substantial labour-free incomes for adults will break the back of any economy — but not without families equipped to maintain the next generation."

Focusing on child benefit is not the answer, Morgan calls for a more flexible and more generous approach to family allowances, both state and private, to help men and women spread the extra costs of becoming parents over their working lives. She puts this into an instructive context of 1920s feminism: when Eleanor Rathbone was arguing for equal pay and an end to sex discrimination in employment, she was careful also to demand compensation through state or occupational family allowances for the loss of the man's "family wage". Rathbone saw quite clearly then the consequences we are seeing now of making it impossible for a family to survive on a single wage.

It is worth putting Rathbone's comments into their historical context too. Under 10 per cent of women were in any kind of paid employment in her day but, according to a forthcoming book by Joanna Bourke, over half the women were in paid work in 1850. It's a long story, the one about working women...

Television workhorses finally put out to grass

House of Eliott bids a gracious farewell but *Minder* makes an exit with its rogues no longer so lovable

SUNDAY saw the last ever *House of Eliott* (BBC1). "No!" I gasped when I heard the news of the Eliotts' forthcoming demise, looking up from my fancy beadwork (jet and pearl), while my eyes went all funny. Wrongly, I had assumed that *The House of Eliott* would continue production for years and years (like *Upstairs, Downstairs*), with its conditionally tasteful advances and set-backs, successes and disasters, vertiginous ups and downs, lousy two-dimensional dialogue, interwoven great events of social history, and non-stop parade of fantastic period clobber. But now it is no more. The gooseberry of fortune in the *House of Eliott's* metaphorical lift has finally come to rest, and many of its features will be mourned hereafter. Never again will Evie (Louise Lombard) bite an exquisite lip and lower a perfect creamy eyelid to convey uncontrollable emotion. And never again will the viewer reach the end of a tragic episode — the death of Mrs Ranby under the wheels of a

bus — and then be obliged to wait precisely five... respectful... gloomy... peculiar... seconds... before... Pheew! The jaunty violin Dee-dee-dee-dee-dip-dee theme tune breaks in and relieves the tension.

Judging when to exit, leaving the audience calling for more, is notoriously the most difficult thing in show business. *Minder* (ITV), which ends tonight after 107 virtually identical nice little earners over 14 years, left its exit truthfully a bit too late. *Love Hurts* (BBC1) ends for ever next Friday, for the respectable reason that the story dictates it, leaving eight million fans distraught at the untimeliness of the sweet sorrow. With *The House of Eliott*,



LYNNE TRUSS

however, they probably judged the moment just about right. Evie had lost her innocence; the business had nowhere to go; the marriage of Bea and Jack was now as solid as a rock; the frocks were not the whoops of delight they once were; and the scalp-short hairstyles acquired in America made the sisters look fright-

eningly flinty and mean, like *haute couture* punks.

It's still a shame about *Minder*, though. Few popular TV series have been written and performed with such sheer brio. If you met the words "You're not imputing impropriety, I do 'ope," running wild in the deserts of Arabia, you would certainly shout "Minder!" without a second thought. At its heyday, in 1985, *Minder* reached an audience figure of 17.5 million; and its creator Leon Griffiths received a Bafta award. Even at the last count, *Minder* was watched by nearly 12 million. But personally, I just dipped into it from time to time ("Oh good, Dave's all right") and then dipped right back out again. Its nadir, for me, was at the

end of the drawn-out Dennis Waterman-Terry McCann era, when the souring relationship between the treacherous Arthur and the exploited Terry was like watching someone *whinge* a day. I never trusted Arthur after that.

Despite the refreshing introduction of nephew Ray (Gary Webster) in 1991 as Arthur's replacement sidekick, the limits of *Minder* were soon reached. The sad thing is, it has been living off its dialogue and performances, rather than its story lines, for ages. Even the trumpeted 100th episode, "All Things Bright and Beautiful", was disappointingly the same old thing: Arthur getting out of his depth, on the run from a loony ex-con, and then everything turning out all right after all. I remember how William Shatner (of *Star Trek*) once told a story on a chat show about American boys surviving a Vietnamese



Cole and Webster in *Minder*: strong acting, weak plots

detention camp by mentally cataloguing the voyages of the *Starship Enterprise*. Similar time spent recalling plots to 107 *Minders*, I fear, would be so depressing a prospect that any sensible prisoner would opt for Russian roulette.

Farewell then, *Minder*. The ironic thing is that, decked with all the enthusiastic Dick-

ens comparisons from luminaries such as Malcolm Bradbury, nobody paused to reflect that, having once invented the Artful Dodger, Dickens did not write 106 more stories about him, demonstrating his harmless likeability. On an early *Did You See?* (BBC2), panel member Professor Denis Donoghue of New York

University pronounced in all academic seriousness that Arthur Daley was an insidiously immoral invention, tending to corrupt public attitudes towards petty crime. At the time, I thought he was bonkers. But perhaps he was right. Certainly *Minder's* writers must have found it progressively difficult to find crime petty enough for Daley to dabble in, without upsetting the moral applecart. Lovable rogue is becoming a contradiction in terms.

The other point about the Artful Dodger, however, is that he has a life of his own. Will Beatrice and Evangeline, Madge and Tilly, or Tessa and Frank, live on for ever? In the long run, no. Had *Minder* ended five years ago, George Cole's Arthur Daley would still have survived in the public imagination, for the simple reason that he's now indelibly mixed up with everything else. Saying goodbye to Arthur on screen is therefore like having the consolation of religion in bereavement. He's gone, certainly; but somehow he hasn't left.

COUNTRY LIFE

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Will a coronary scupper your chances in the House? ... reasons for premature birth ... good news for heavy drinkers



"WHERE there is death, there is hope" is a cynical message which encourages ambitious politicians. They should, however, not waste their time casting an envious eye on the elaborately carved ceremonial chair of Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade.

Recovery from a coronary, and a full return to work, is now the rule rather than the exception. Doctor McLean Baird, of the British Heart Foundation, says: "The outlook for a patient is good, far better than it was and is still improving. The first year is a difficult one, but after that patients do very well. Four out of five patients who have had a heart attack are alive five years afterwards, a great majority who succumb will do so in the first year."

There is also good news for those who want to continue working. Work, laden as it is with irritations and frustrations, can

The hearts of Parliament

easily induce angina in patients with narrowed coronary arteries; but although it may cause coronary constriction from time to time, and therefore pain, Dr Baird says that statistics show that in most occupations working doesn't materially alter the long-term prognosis.

A patient's life expectancy after a heart attack is to some extent dependent on which artery was blocked by the thrombosis. If the left coronary artery is affected there is greater damage to the heart muscle, and the chances for



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

June 20 last year, but no detailed reports were issued about its nature. He was later admitted to a London clinic for investigations

and it is reasonable to suppose that he had an angiogram, and that when better his heart was subjected to a stress test. There has been no suggestion that as yet he needs a by-pass and it is reasonable to assume that there is no evidence of dangerous narrowing in his arteries, that his heart function is good and that there is no evidence of heart failure.

Mr Smith, too, can be reassured. For, even though the state of his coronary arterial tree did demand by-pass surgery, he has every chance of being around for several more parliaments. The ten-year figure for "event-free" survival (a nice medical euphemism) are 90.1 per cent.

Even patients whose heart suffered severe damage — so that they are left with poor ventricular function, or actual heart failure — are also doing better. The introduction of ACE inhibitors has improved their outlook by 21 per cent, thereby reinforcing advantages which have already accrued from the use of long-term aspirin therapy, and in suitable cases, beta-blockers.

Neither Mr Smith nor Mr

Heseltine may ever reach No 10, but neither should be deterred on grounds of health from making the attempt should they wish to.

Early babies



MOST women are relieved when they reach the twelfth week of pregnancy and the danger of miscarriage recedes. A few go on to lose their babies in the next three months, and others have an early delivery with its hazards to the premature child.

A highly significant cause of late miscarriage and early labour has been explored at the Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, where doctors have studied the organisms found in vaginal discharges, and related their findings to the outcome of the pregnancy.

Previous research had suggested that bacterial vaginosis — the presence of an abnormally large number of anaerobic organisms in

general and of Gardnerella vaginalis in particular — in the discharge was associated with early labour.

The Northwick Park research, published in the *British Medical Journal*, confirms this earlier work, and more importantly shows that the same organisms are related to miscarriage in the normally safe trimester between the twelfth and twenty-fourth weeks of pregnancy.

Bacterial vaginosis, which can be treated with antibiotics, caused a five-and-a-half-fold increase in the miscarriage rate and a three-fold increase in early labour.

Bar matters



THAT heavy and prolonged drinking has an adverse effect on intellectual prowess is as obvious in the bar as it is in any ward

round. Impairment, however, is patchy as some skills are retained

almost in full while others, at present inexplicably, are lost.

Scans show that the brains of heavy drinkers are smaller than those who drink in moderation or not at all, and in time become shrivelled like walnuts. Microscopy demonstrates that the atrophy is the result of loss of white, rather than grey, matter.

Research by two Danish scientists, Doctors Grethe Badsberg Jensen and Bente Pakkenberg has provided good news for heavy drinkers who are able to give up. Their work has shown that the number of neurones (the brain's nerve cells) are not reduced in number by alcohol, but that the damage alcohol causes is to the nerve cell extensions (the dendrites).

This is reassuring news as nerve cells once destroyed cannot be replaced. But, if as the scientists suggest the damage is to the dendrites and the cell body is preserved, total abstinence might allow regrowth. The Danish study suggests a reason for the clinical observation that if heavy drinkers stop drinking, there is an improvement in their intellect.

Perils of playing doctor in the house

Cheap kits for diagnosing your own kidney stones or cancer may soon be available. Nigel Hawkes surveys the potential market and weighs the advantages



A diabetic with a blood glucose test: research shows that diabetes tests work better than most

Do-it-yourself diagnostics — over-the-counter kits for diagnosing a range of diseases from high blood pressure to AIDS — are set to be a big growth area in medicine.

The kits give people more control over their own lives, can provide earlier diagnosis of dangerous conditions, and for those who are already ill can ensure they are getting the right level of medication. But home diagnosis worries some doctors, who fear people will be needlessly concerned or falsely reassured by the results of tests carried out in their own bedrooms.

The tests could also have significant effects on medical costs. People may discover things about themselves that will send them rushing round to the doctor for treatment, adding to the NHS drug bill. Thousands of worried men demanding drugs to lower their blood cholesterol levels may not amount to good medical practice.

So far, Britain is only beginning to nibble at a market which is booming in America. There home diagnostic products are among the fastest-growing lines in the pharmacies. During 1993, sales of blood pressure kits and blood-glucose meters racked up growth rates of 30 per cent or more. In Britain, the best-established kits are for pregnancy testing, sales of which grew by more than 20 per cent last year, and for helping diabetics control their condition. But cheap kits for a whole range of diseases are on the way.

Within a few years, for example, it is possible that kits could be available for testing for prostate cancer, a disease that kills 9,000 men in Britain every year. Early diagnosis could save many of those lives, but it would have other effects. If we assume that a test produces a 10 per cent "false positive" rate, and a million middle-aged men are using it twice a year, 200,000 will be

getting an alarming, and incorrect, message. Many lives may be saved, but the NHS may also struggle to deal with those wrongly diagnosed, to say nothing of the stress to the individuals themselves.

Arguments like these have made the US Food and Drug Administration tread carefully over home diagnosis. Thomas Tsakris, director of the division responsible, has asked: "How good should a home use test be in terms of the public health? We simply don't have

Patients may be needlessly worried or falsely reassured by the tests?

in place ways to determine public health outcome.

For example, we don't know at FDA if home use of the cholesterol test will have any impact on heart disease. No such concerns affect one of the most successful of home test kits, those used by diabetics to monitor blood glucose levels. Several major companies, including Bayer Diagnostics and Boehringer Mannheim, compete for this market, which is large. Britain alone has about 800,000 diagnosed diabetics. For insulin-dependent diabetics (of whom there are about 250,000) Bayer markets a kit costing £29 which involves taking a drop of blood and exposing it to light in a

meter which gives a digital read-out of glucose levels.

A study published recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that patients who use meters like these can control the condition significantly better. It is hoped that benefits will include a reduction in long-term effects, which can include kidney damage and blindness. Even small improvements in control could have significant effects: diabetes is reckoned to be the third most common cause of death in developed countries, after heart disease and cancer.

Kidney-stone sufferers can also monitor their condition using a simple test developed by a Cardiff company, Gyros Medical. This kit monitors the levels of salts in the urine, warning when more fluid should be taken to prevent the formation of stones. It is designed for people who have suffered the agony of kidney stones and want to try to ensure they won't get another one. The test kit sells for £90 in the US and Germany, but not yet in Britain, where no distributor has yet been signed up. Colin Goble of Gyros says: "People in Britain haven't yet got the message about tests like these."

Over-the-counter AIDS tests that fit into the top pocket and take just eight minutes to determine whether you are HIV-positive do exist but are illegal in Britain. The rules insist that testing for HIV should not be detached from counselling. AIDS charities are alarmed at the prospect of this changing. Peter Glover, of ACET (Aids Care Education and Training), says: "We would have the strongest reservations about test kits for HIV. We are very concerned about possible suicides, because of the state of mind of

somebody who diagnosed himself HIV-positive."

Of the tests that are available, cholesterol kits are the most controversial, largely because a knowledge of blood cholesterol levels on their own is not necessarily very informative. Roger Odd of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society says that these tests are best done only in consultation with a professional person, able to interpret them. "Our guidance is that people should seek advice from pharmacists or doctors, because the readings are variable, and difficult to interpret." Tests by the Consumers' Association also found that home cholesterol kits could be inaccurate.

The BMA agrees that cholesterol testing can mislead. "You can have a high chole-

sterol level, but a low risk of succumbing to heart disease," a spokeswoman said. "With home testing in general, we worry about patients who can be needlessly worried or falsely reassured. Most tests are best discussed with your doctor."

Worries like these seem certain to proliferate as tests become available for early signs of colon, prostate or even breast cancer. For the moment, the major companies are steering clear of such devices, and the FDA recently refused to approve a home test for diagnosing throat infections because of doubts about its accuracy.

The immediate future lies with tests for chronic but controllable diseases: urinary tract infections, heart disease involving patients on anti-clotting drugs, perhaps allergies and asthma as well, less a case of "patient, heal thyself" than of making sure an existing condition is getting no worse.

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Tell the truth about Aids in Africa

After working in Zimbabwe, Dr Duncan Keeley says that we ignore this disease at our peril

WE don't see a lot of Aids in the small country town in which I work. In inner London where I worked as a GP before coming here we looked after a small but growing number of Aids patients mainly coming from the known high-risk groups. But out here in middle England Aids is not, at present, a visible problem. So

has too much fuss been made of Aids? Absolutely not.

Before settling down to a quiet life as a small-town GP I worked for three years in the mid-1980s as a paediatrician in Zimbabwe, the first nine months working as a senior registrar in the Harare teaching hospital. We were seeing increasing numbers of children with a puzzling combination of problems. They suffered from repeated acute infections, they failed to gain weight normally, they had persistent lymph node enlargement, and not infrequently they died.

The local paediatricians were unable to explain why these children were not getting better — until antibody tests for HIV proved repeatedly positive both on the children and their mothers. The children's fathers, when tested, were also almost invariably HIV positive. Usually the parents were still well, though sometimes they too were losing weight and showing signs of chronic ill health.

At this point I moved to work as the paediatrician at a hospital serving a town of 300,000 people just south of

the capital. Aware by this stage of when to suspect HIV infection in childhood, I saw the number of affected children grow rapidly during the two years I worked there. The harrowing task of explaining to parents why their child was not responding to treatment became a regular feature of the working week.

I did not meet a single doctor working in Zimbabwe who had the slightest doubt that what we were seeing was Aids, caused by infection with HIV. It was particularly tragic to see Aids appearing in a country which had made enormous strides in primary health-care provision: the level of childhood immunisation against whooping cough and measles, for example, was higher in that town than in Islington where I had worked before leaving England.

AIDS in Zimbabwe at that time followed the pattern of an infection spread both by sexual intercourse and by mothers to newborn children — and an infection which had arrived relatively recently and was coming from the north. Outside the capital the problem

was commonest in the towns on the truck routes down from Zambia, commonest in women working as prostitutes — and their clients. The disease was very rare in the south of the country, in the elderly, and in children over five.

The reasons for the predominance heterosexual spread of Aids in Africa are not entirely understood. One possible explanation lies in the high prevalence of other venereal diseases which might make it more likely for the Aids virus to be transmitted by heterosexual intercourse. In a country like Zimbabwe the migrant labour system means that many men spend most of the year away from their families. This is not a way of life that is conducive to monogamy.

In the mid-1980s the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe failed to recognise the growing Aids problem and issued official figures which greatly underestimated the true extent of HIV-related disease. This was understandable but tragic. Then as now, there as here, the only real weapon we have against Aids is the truth — that people should know the risks of promiscuity and of unpro-

ected sex. Zimbabwe now pursues an energetic campaign of public information and education about the risk of Aids.

ONE does not have to spend long witnessing the suffering and misery of families with Aids to feel very angry about anything done to undermine the public education effort which offers the only means so far of preventing that suffering. Prominence has recently been given to newspaper reports suggesting that Aids in Africa is a myth. Anyone living in sub-Saharan Africa who believes Aids to be a myth and fails to take precautions risks illness and death for themselves, their present and future sexual partners, and their children as yet unborn.

But the risks to white heterosexuals are surely small? Not entirely. Any evening in the expensive hotels of Harare one could see European businessmen strolling off with the better class of prostitute. Sexual encounters in high prevalence areas are a significant source of heterosexual Aids in Europe. Here in small town England we are careful when giving health advice to travellers, to make sure they don't believe everything they read in the Sunday papers.

Dr Duncan Keeley is a GP.

IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME?

If you suffer bowel problems such as constipation, irregular diarrhoea, stomach cramps, excessive wind and symptoms aggravated by food, you should know about a new book *The Irritable Bowel Syndrome Self Help Guide*. The book contains comprehensive information on the bowel... how it functions, what can go wrong, how the author feels it can best be treated and how to protect yourself from Irritable Bowel Syndrome. The author gives you his specific advice on what causes IBS and how to relieve embarrassing symptoms without drugs. This book tells you about alternative or natural remedies and how they work. The author shares with you techniques that can help bring fast relief when a problem arises. And he identifies common foods, which he feels should be avoided at all costs. You'll discover how the digestive system works and what you should

eat to restore regular habits. The book covers actual case histories of men and women who suffered Irritable Bowel Syndrome problems and how they were able to overcome them. Many people are putting up with troublesome bowel symptoms because they are unaware of all the treatments on offer and the well-known relief that is now available. Get all the facts. Order *The Irritable Bowel Syndrome Self Help Guide* today. This book is being made available direct from the publishers for only £9.95 which includes handling and despatch. To order send name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access) to the publishers - Carnell Ltd, Dept. 888, Alfreton, N. Colechester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 21 days for delivery. You can return the book at any time for a full refund if not completely satisfied.

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Janet Daley



Education without morals, the legacy of the Enlightenment, is like music without music

The Education Secretary gave a speech at King's College London this week, intriguingly called "Values in Higher Education". Given the Government's usual inclinations, this might have amounted to a lecture on value for money in higher education. But John Patten is cut from different cloth from most of his cabinet colleagues. As a former don, he has a genuine commitment to academic pursuits, and as a practising Catholic, a sincere belief in the usefulness of moral principles.

Alas, due to the dangerousness of the times and the depth of the political hot water into which Mr Patten might have dived had he said anything of interest on this subject, his speech was an anodyne missed opportunity. For he, of all people, must be aware that there is indeed an issue to be addressed here which is of far greater importance than a lot of twaddle about student union subs or even the grant system.

Hinting as obliquely as possible at this great unmentionable, Mr Patten did describe the ancient founders of academic institutions as being always certain of "their role in promoting moral values". Had he gone on to say that academic life is now impoverished by its arid detachment, that

Academia is literally de-valued by exclusive pursuit of objectivity

scholarly discourse is frittering away its great gifts on trivia when it might be leading moral debate, he would, no doubt, have produced hysteria in the universities. He would have been caricatured as dictating some authoritarian code within which subjects must be taught. However speculative his comments, they would have been taken as a breach of sacred intellectual freedoms.

For the academic ideal of liberty — and I speak as a former academic reared in that culture — has become confounded with the idea of objectivity, forbidding any lapse of antiseptic disinterest. The idea that intellectual pursuit might be carried on within a context of explicit moral judgments has been in disrepute throughout the modern period. The roots of this attitude go back at least to the 18th century, when statements of fact and statements of value were definitively set asunder.

Some would trace the breach even further back to Cartesian scepticism. Doubting all that it is possible to doubt did not involve, for Descartes himself, a rejection of religion and its moral commands. For him, the existence of God was axiomatic: an indubitable truth from which other certainties could follow.

But the damage was done. The British empiricists completed the job with David Hume's triumphant conclusion that you cannot

derive a "ought" from an "is": that no number of facts can ever produce a value judgment. What he meant, of course, is something rather more technical than it appears: that no series of factual propositions can ever logically entail a moral one. His argument presented a challenge to the history of moral philosophy, but he did not advocate it as a principle to govern ordinary life.

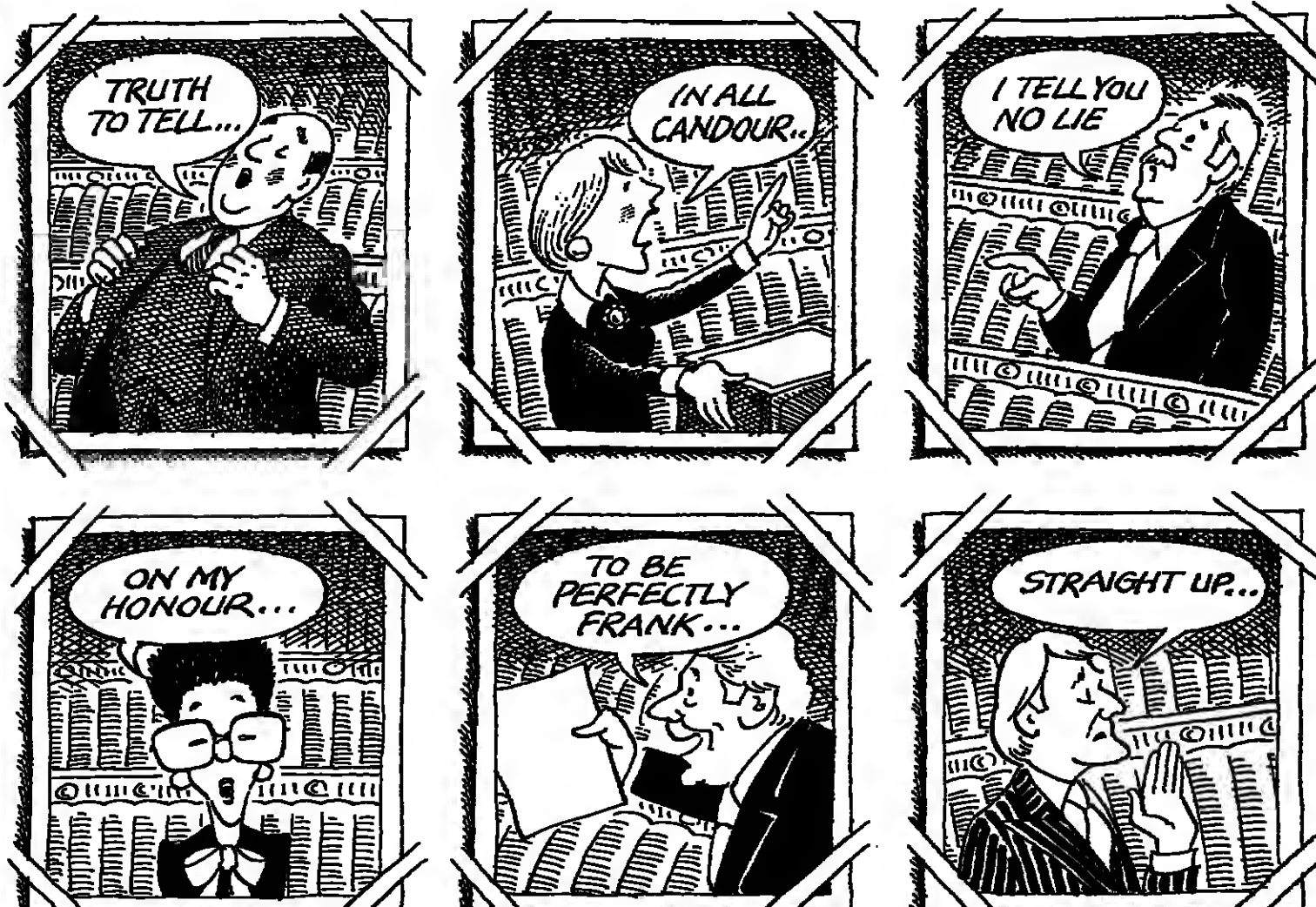
Moral conclusions might not be logically verifiable, but that did not make them unimportant. We were all to go on behaving as ethically as we were able, regardless of the fact that we could never deduce a moral judgment from any set of facts about the world. This debunking of absolutism fitted happily into the English tradition of rebellion against the Roman Church. But the de-valuing (in both senses) of all European scholarly life was proceeding apace, partly as a result of the stunning success of the physical sciences, which had proved the worth of objectivity beyond any doubt.

Attempts by the Church to suppress this unbiased search for truth cast a pall over the idea of a moral context for learning, which remains to this day, in the heart of every scholar who is reminded of his ethical responsibilities, whether he is conducting a literature seminar or experiments in genetic engineering.

So where do we find ourselves, now we are at the tail-end of the Enlightenment? Disillusionment is rife with the crude divorce of human concerns (which are what moral debate is about) from higher learning. Students themselves rebel against it, sometimes in unattractive ways. But more seriously, they vote with their feet. Ironically, it is the sciences themselves which have suffered most from the dehumanising effect of being purged of an ethical dimension. Prospective undergraduates are now likely to see scientific detachment as repugnant rather than heroic.

But the arts are not unscathed. Philosophy has been trying, with only small success, to come in from its cold exile in the wastes of verbal analysis. When I was a student, it consisted entirely — as my five-year-old said when I tried to describe it to her — of "having ideas about ideas". Self-contained and self-justifying, it had become an irrelevant pastime for specialists. Literary study has disappeared up its own blind alley of incestuous theory, losing touch with the most morally influential of art forms, from which it sprang.

In seeking the hardest possible truth, we may have turned the life of the mind — which ought to be the finest expression of humanity — into a fruitless thing.



MISSING PERSONS

Who should lead England?

Leading from the middle won't do — in politics any more than cricket. And the national team needs inspiration

Most cricketers take a straightforward view of human society, but the game itself is almost the school of life that Victorian schoolmasters thought it. Certainly it is a most fruitful metaphor in peace and war, or in politics. When one thinks about qualities needed for leadership, one can no doubt turn to Nelson and his captains, or Napoleon and his marshals, but one might do as well by reflecting on the qualities of the cricket field.

Who now remembers Bertie Buse? He played cricket as an all-rounder for Somerset before and after the war. In his earlier years he was quite a useful bowler — with Bill Andrews he once ran through a West Indies side before lunch at Taunton — who could make a few runs. In his middle years he was quite a useful batsman who could hold up his end as a bowler. He went on playing into his forties, at which stage he averaged, year after year, about 30 as a bowler and about 25 as a batsman. An all-rounder whose wickets cost more than he makes with the bat must always have arithmetic against him.

I remember watching Somerset play Warwickshire at Wells in late July of 1951. I had recently heard that I had been awarded a second class degree in the History finals at Oxford. I was feeling an appropriate regret that I had not worked harder, had not known what a mottle and bailey castle was (I thought the mottle was the most, but in fact it is the hump), and had not been able to say at my viva who had invented the microscope.

My mood of gentle regret was suited to the proceedings, at least so far as Somerset was concerned. The Wells ground has long since disappeared under a mushroom crop of houses; it was a tiny ground, on which the magnificent Arthur Wells had twice in the 1930s hit five sixes in an over; I saw the second occasion. Any fast scoring that was done in 1951 was by Warwickshire, though there was not much of that. J.S. Ord, not an exciting batsman, scored 123 runs, his only century of the season.

Through the Warwickshire innings, Bertie Buse toiled on, running up to the wicket in his own melancholy way, with a certain precision but without the least *elan*. He could swing the ball, Wells, like Taunton, had the heavy Somerset air which encourages swing bowling. I think he

swung the ball early; he certainly swung it more slowly after he reached the age of 40. If one can imagine a ball delivered at slow medium pace and following the trajectory of a banana, that was H.T.F. Buse. I do not think he ever greatly expected to take a wicket, but he was accurate and steady; if a batsman was foolish enough to want to get out, Buse would not positively prevent him from doing so.

While I was drinking a couple of glasses of George's Best Bitter — itself an nostalgic memory, a thin and sour post-war brew — Bertie Buse

William Rees-Mogg

remembered watching Somerset play Warwickshire at Wells in late July of 1951. I had recently heard that I had been awarded a second class degree in the History finals at Oxford. I was feeling an appropriate regret that I had not worked harder, had not known what a mottle and bailey castle was (I thought the mottle was the most, but in fact it is the hump), and had not been able to say at my viva who had invented the microscope.

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short or wide and he seldom bowled a full pitch. He was not a gift to any batsman, and year after year county batsmen averaged only 2.5 runs an over off him, just less than a run off every other ball. Unfortunately he bowled with so little venom that it took him some 14 overs, on average, to take a wicket. When he was bowling, one did not sit on the edge of one's seat.

As the years went by, the Somerset crowds warmed gently to him. He was always there; he never seemed to be injured or ill. He was a utility player rather well suited to the drab utility period of the post-war years. He seldom changed the course of a match, but if 20 runs had to be scored, he could usually score them, and if 30 overs had to be bowled for not more than

about 75 runs and a couple of wickets, he could usually bowl them. He must have had a stern ambition to stay so long and do so little.

Bertie Buse was never a star, though there were stars in the Somerset teams of his period. Before the glorious days of Ian Botham and Viv Richards, Somerset already had the aggressive batting tradition of Harold Gimblett — a far greater batsman than his meagre Test record suggests — and Arthur Wellard. In 1951, Maurice Tremlett, the father of another excellent cricketer, scored over 2,000 runs. Buse was the batsman who came in when the stars had been dismissed, the bowler who came on when the stars needed a rest.

He was, of course, anything but charismatic. He had indeed an almost touching anti-charisma. He wore an expression of contained anxiety, like an accountant who cannot find £17.28 in an audit of millions. He was in fact an all-round athlete, and played first class rugby as well as first class cricket, but he did not look like an athlete at all.

One would have thought from the disposition of his limbs that his body

had been shaped by the Dickensian labour of scratching all day with a quill pen, seated at one of those old-fashioned tall stools in an office with half blacked-out windows. The Somerset crowd rather like this quality in him.

Bertie Buse was very English. Certainly he had that extreme reliability of character which would in those days still have been regarded as a particularly English quality.

One could call it steadiness under fire, except that it amounted to being equally steady whether under fire or not. He would have made an excellent signalman on the early railways. The board of directors would have known that the Penance express was not going to crash into the Exeter milk train when Buse was in the signal box. What would be done by regularity and method would be done. What required exceptional talent, let alone the anarchy of genius, was unfortunately another matter. Apart from the West Indians at Taunton in 1939, when the ball was swinging like a knobkerrie, I doubt if any batsman was ever surprised by Bertie Buse — as a batsman he never took a bowler by storm.

His mood was very English too, though again of a particular kind. He radiated a certain orderly sadness. He would, I suppose, have liked to be touched with genius, and may have felt, as Salieri may have felt of Mozart, that God had given his gifts to people who made less good use of them than he would have done. When Buse played the right shot he scored a single; he played it again and was caught at the wicket. When Harold Gimblett played the wrong shot, it went for six. That must have been frustrating.

The press may have irritated him too. Never a "brilliant" innings; only once a spell of "unplayable" bowling; at best the cold porridge of respect for his usefulness, for his regularity. Of course there was never the least suggestion that he was a natural leader, or that he might — even if he had been an amateur, as Captains were in those days — be made Captain of Somerset.

Bertie Buse has been much in my thoughts in recent months. These cricketing metaphors can occupy the wicket of one's mind as all those years ago he used to occupy the wicket for Somerset. I will not say what public figure has made me think of him. It was probably as well that Somerset never made him Captain. Leadership needs the capacity to astonish.

Truth must be the norm

Robert Rhodes
James on lying to the Commons

Neither experienced politicians nor historians will be greatly shocked by William Waldegrave's candour in informing a select committee that is not unknown for ministers to mislead the House of Commons and the press when it is deemed to be in the national interest. The most prominent cases since 1945 are Stafford Cripps's denials of devaluation up to the moment of announcing the decision (to the apopleptic fury of the French government) and the outright rejection by the Eden and Macmillan Governments of charges of collusion with Israel over Suez.

In the Suez case, Eden had personally assured Ben-Gurion that the secret would be kept, and he honoured his pledge, which Ben-Gurion never forgot. The Labour Opposition did not press the point vigorously, and the matter lapsed until Eden and his Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd — and Ben-Gurion — were dead, when the full story could be told. There were many who strongly suspected that ministers were, if not actually lying, not revealing the complete truth. But not only was there no conclusive proof, there was very little inclination to probe deep into a national humiliation.

It is part of political folklore that John Profumo's real offence was that he lied to the Commons about his relationship with Christine Keeler. In fact, what so shocked his colleagues was that he had lied to them, and compounded his crime by carrying out his threat to sue newspapers for libel — and winning. As we now know, and several people knew at the time, there were mitigating circumstances, but I do not forget the sense of personal betrayal that swept through ministerial ranks.

The odd feature of William Waldegrave's argument is his citing of the 1967 devaluation crisis. The fact is that Callaghan did not lie to the Commons but ought to have done. What happened was that he evaded a question from a Labour MP on the matter when he should have made a robust and untrue denial. It was the evasion that caused the panic, a run on the pound, a political disaster, and Callaghan's resignation as Chancellor. Iain Macleod was among those who were amazed by Callaghan's refusal "to do a Stafford Cripps". What was to Jim Callaghan's personal credit as a man of honour was very definitely not in the national interest.

But although our political history has many examples of ministerial concealment of truth, this is a dangerous area. It is remarkable how much Churchill told the Commons during the war, and Brendan Bracken's handling of the press was masterly. His approach as Minister of Information was blunt: "I cannot tell you the whole truth, but what I tell you will be true." The press was, of course, fully supportive of the war effort, but the bad news — or much of it — was not concealed. If there could be this degree of candour in wartime, why not now?

Realistically, as almost everyone recognises, government can never be fully open, particularly in diplomatic and defence matters. But there are perils even in implying that concealment of the truth from Parliament and the public is normal. It is not. It should be regarded as exceptional, and countenanced only in the national interest, not in a party political or personal interest.

Mr Waldegrave is half-right historically, but unwittingly he has pointed us down a road which no British government should lightly follow, for we know what the result will be. Restoring public confidence in our national institutions should be one of the Prime Minister's priorities.

Mr Waldegrave is personally a man of honour — and candour. He must now emphasise that the exception must never become the rule.

Czech Schin-dig

THE GOOD burghers of a little-known town in eastern Bohemia were celebrating heartily yesterday on the back of Steven Spielberg's haunting blockbuster *Schindler's List*. The film has put Svitavy, a tiny market town with 17,000 inhabitants, unexpectedly on the map — for it was Oskar Schindler's birthplace.

Yesterday the town's first memorial to its new hero was unveiled by Karol Sidon, chief rabbi to the Czech republic, in a modest ceremony followed by a special screening of the film for some 300 local dignitaries. Later the evening descended into something of a knees-up, as the excellent Czech beer began to flow.

Most of the jolly-makers confessed they'd never heard of Schindler before the film and its associated publicity. Nevertheless, they are obviously imbued with the same entrepreneurial spirit as the region's now famous son, for bar-talk focussed on the prospect of holiday tours taking in Schindler's haunts in the town where he lived for 30 years

before moving to Poland. "There may be some commercial offshoots from this," admitted the town's mayor, Jiri Brdl. "But this was not the main goal of the exercise."

Les Rosbifs

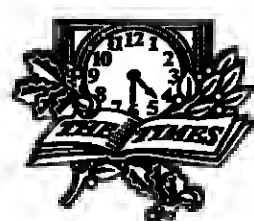
AN ORGY of meat-eating took place last night at the Butcher's Hall in London, where the Carnivores Club unashamedly celebrated the beauty of beef with a dinner for nearly 200. Official and Aberdeen Angus were consumed with abandon at the gathering, attended by such culinary masters as Robert Carrier.

But claret quipped turned the talk to the growing threat of the vegetarian movement and German disdain for British beef. "It is spectacularly politically incorrect," says Conal Walsh, who helped organise the bash. "But the way the media treat food you would think that no one liked red meat any more — which clearly isn't true." Diners were entertained by two naked dancers as they ploughed through their bar-

ons of beef. "One male and one female, body-painted as a zebra and a leopard," explained Walsh, curiously. Then as coffee was served, a cabaret act produced a breezy rendition of "Stand by Your Man". Just don't mention the Germans.

Des. desk

AN unseemly bout of office politics is afflicting Whitehall, as a handful of Sir Humphreys scrap over the best desk in the Home Office, soon to be vacated by Sir Clive Whitmore. Favourite for the post of permanent secretary, following Whitmore's premature de-



parture for the private sector, is John Chilcott, who occupies the same post in the Northern Ireland department. But some officials whisper that Chilcott's job brought him into contact with the IRA, rendering him unsuitable for the Home Office.

Others being mooted include Ian Burns, head of the police department, who has also done a stint in the NI department; and Hayden Phillips, the Heritage department's permanent secretary, and a former Home Office man. The key criterion for the delicate post is, apparently, an ability to cope with Michael Howard.

Epic dispute

AT THE W.H. Smith literary award lunch yesterday, Vikram Seth had still not for-

given Lord Gowrie for snubbing his novel. He could not resist a few digs. Warm letters of support for *A Suitable Boy* "comforted me when I was quite dispirited last September", he remarked. "With the exception of someone who is not here, the book was received with enormous generosity."

The "someone" was Gowrie, who magnanimously insists he admires the Calcutta-born writer — and bought his first book of poems when few had heard of him. "I've read the novel twice and I'm glad he won this prize," he says. "But I stick to what I felt — that it needs editing."

● HARTLEY BOOTH is not the only Tory MP given to expressing himself in verse. A poem penned by Blackpool's Harold Ellenton has been in-

tercepted. Ellenton's ode was addressed to his whip, Timothy Kirkhope, rather than to a young lady. No sleazy conclusions, please, for it merely reflects the frustration of Conservative MPs trapped with no relief in the Scottish Local Government Bill committee (80 hours so far). Irked at Kirkhope, Ellenton wrote:

Dear Mr Whip, you are losing your grip
Six MPs were missing while you were out ...
So maintain some decorum
Or you will lose a quorum.

In to bat

IT MAY not be quite enough to bring round English cricket, but Major Ronald Ferguson is at least trying to do his bit. The gallant major has just applied to Basingstoke council to convert a sizable barn and surrounding buildings at his home, Dummer Down Farm, into an indoor cricket school.

The gesture is not altogether philanthropic, however: "I hope to make money," he admits. "I am very hopeful it will be given planning permission. There is a desperate need in this area for indoor cricket facilities."



A case of the true blues

Kenneth Baker's political star may be waning, but his career as a journalist is clearly on the up-and-up. On Tuesday night, the former Home Secretary was getting on down to such raunchy blues numbers as *Going to Chicago* in his new-found capacity as entertainment critic for a mass-market tabloid newspaper.

The event was an evening of jazz by the legendary singer Annie Ross, at London's Café Royal. "I was meant to cover Frankie Vaughan last month, but I couldn't make it," he explained cheerily. "So I've come to this one instead."

Clearly moved by the smoky atmosphere Baker (right) pronounced the startlingly red-headed Ross (left) who performs in Robert Altman's latest film *Short Cuts*, a star. Which probably cut little ice with his wife Mary, who seemed to be in distinct danger of nodding off during the quieter numbers.



RIPE FOR



SENSE NOT SOUL

Why make it easier for Brussels to make law?

Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, called yesterday for European integration to have more "soul". More sense would be more useful. The latest row over how power should be distributed within an enlarged European Community has as its subject the argument over how far Europe should advance towards union and away from national sovereignty. On this issue, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is sensibly digging in his heels.

The two disagreements that are holding up the entry terms for Sweden, Finland, Austria and Norway into the EC relate to Spanish fishing rights in Norwegian waters and voting rights in the Council of Ministers. Setting aside all the cod, Britain's interests lie in retaining the current rules for qualified majority voting on issues such as the environment and health and safety. These give the big countries — Germany, Britain, France and Italy — ten votes each, and the smaller ones fewer, down to Luxembourg's two. A minimum of 23 votes has to be amassed for a proposal to be blocked, which means that an alliance of two big countries and one smaller one is usually enough. The idea is that, on enlargement, that figure should rise to 27.

Britain argues that the current system already discriminates against bigger countries and gives smaller countries a say quite disproportionate to their population. So, for instance, Luxembourg has 20 per cent of the votes of Germany, but a population just 0.006 per cent of Germany's. The four countries hoping to join the EC all have small populations too. So the distortion will become even worse. If all the small countries ganged up together, they could pass a measure that was opposed by over 40 per cent of the EC's population. That is why Mr Hurd wants the minimum figure of 23 to remain in a larger Community, thus redressing the balance a little.

Germany and France are furious about what they see as Britain's recalcitrance; though here, for once, Britain is joined by Spain and Italy. The French European Affairs Minister, Alain Lamassoure, said yesterday that Britain saw enlargement as "a tool to complicate or even paralyse the European Union". There is a measure of truth in that. Now that the single market has been completed, there is less need to push measures through in haste, or indeed to push measures through at all. As Mr Hurd wisely pointed out on Monday, the EC's task now is to make Maastricht work. Only those who want the EC to scurry pell-mell towards unity need worry about members using a blocking veto when their national sovereignty is imperilled.

Already Britain is being threatened with directives that it has not been able to block. The 48-hour working week was pushed through as a health-and-safety measure under majority voting, and Britain is now having to challenge it in the European Court. Yesterday, the European Parliament tried to withdraw Britain's opt-outs from a directive on young workers that would prevent teenagers combining a paper round with a Saturday job. Unless this country can persuade all other member states to back it in the Council of Ministers, at least one of Britain's opt-outs will be lost. The Government's boasts about the victories it secured at Maastricht are looking thinner than ever.

So this is a question of substance, not merely an electioneering stand. Britain is unlikely to give ground, and the cost to France and Germany of conceding would not be exorbitant. Everyone agrees that the system of voting will have to be reconsidered in the intergovernmental conference of 1996, not least because Germany's population has increased so much. It is not too much to ask that Britain's neighbours allow the present size of the veto to stand until then.

OUI, MINISTER

Whitehall calls in French expertise

Only a few years ago, the idea of a French bureaucrat being called upon to assess the performance of the British Civil Service would have appalled Whitehall's discreet mandarins. Since the Northcote-Trevelyan report of 1853, British officials have prided themselves on the distinction between their own measured style of bureaucracy and the more grandiose continental approach. Yet this traditional gulf has now been crossed with dramatic success by a young French civil servant, Sylvie Trosa, whose new report on public sector reform is to form the basis of a plan for Whitehall action.

Her study is important for reasons particular and general. Seconded to the Cabinet Office from the Conseil Scientifique de l'Evaluation, Ms Trosa was asked to judge the progress of the Next Steps programme which has already resulted in the creation of more than a hundred semi-independent agencies. In the last six years, government functions ranging from vehicle licensing to the payment of benefits have been given chief executives, performance targets and greater control over staffing. By the middle of next year, 75 per cent of the Civil Service will be run on these lines. Ms Trosa's study could scarcely be more timely.

The Next Steps reform, she concludes, has given government divisions valuable independence, made them more responsive to their consumers, improved their efficiency and made them directly accountable to ministers. But the gains have not been unalloyed. Relations between central departments and agencies have often been marred by frictions and misunderstanding. The precise division of labour between centre and agencies remains confused.

As Ms Trosa points out, Next Steps agencies occupy a new and anomalous constitutional position as "semi-autonomous

bodies within a department". The correct balance still needs to be struck between creative diversity and centrally-dictated standard practice. The detail of her proposals is perhaps a little too dirigiste for British tastes. But she is right to call for better liaison between departments and agencies, to be managed by the so-called "Fraser figures" established after the 1991 Fraser report. Agencies also need more sophisticated targets which can be used to diagnose problems as well as to criticise failure. The unhappy history of the Child Support Agency has shown the inadequacy of narrowly financial performance goals.

In a broader sense, the Trosa report typifies the new dialogue between nations about best practice in the public sector. In the past, the Parisian *grand corps* and Whitehall have had little in common. The founding father of the postwar French civil service, Michel Debré, urged officials to "taste the grandeur of the profession" in a way that would still be unthinkable in this country. Yet, if the respective cultures of Whitehall and the French administration remain radically different, the methods which they use to govern are converging to an unexpected extent.

Around the world, there is a growing consensus — described by some as a "new paradigm" — in favour of decentralisation, pluralistic provision of services and the use of business methods in the public sector. Just as Britain has Next Steps, market testing and the citizen's charter, so France has the *projet de service* and America the national performance review. The exchange of ideas between governments on this subject is now continuous — a process in which Britain is an undoubted market leader, advising more often than it is advised. As a symbol of this new openness, the Trosa report should be welcomed wholeheartedly.

RIPE FOR ABOLITION

Britain must discard its blasphemy laws

Saint Teresa of Avila, a 16th century mystic, is at the centre of Britain's latest blasphemy case. The British Board of Film Censors in 1989 denied a certificate to a short video film based on her life on the grounds that it was blasphemous. The makers of the film argued this decision violated the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Commission on Human Rights has just ruled that the Government has a case to answer. This is all unnecessary. Swift action should be taken to abolish the country's anachronistic blasphemy laws before the case reaches court.

The law on blasphemy is made by judges. Long thought to have fallen into desuetude, it was resurrected in the notorious *Gay News* case in 1978. It is an offence at common law to outrage the feelings of a Christian — and no one else — by abusing Christ or denying or attacking the Christian religion. Historically, it has been justified on the grounds that it protected the Church and State, maintained the fabric of society and preserved the consensus of the community. But these justifications are now open to challenge, both because of the religiously diverse nature of Britain's population and its increasingly secular society.

As the furor over *The Satanic Verses* demonstrated, the blasphemy law protects only the Christian faith. This is discrimi-

natory, and needlessly provided ammunition to those enemies of free speech who wished to have that book banned. The protection of the law must either be extended to all faiths, or abolished altogether. The first option is unwieldy and undesirable: it would be a monumental task to define "religion" and the extension would be a serious encroachment on free speech. The answer, as the Law Commission recommended in 1981, is to abolish altogether the common law offence of blasphemy.

The offence is, in any case, redundant: the Obscene Publications Act 1959 and the Public Order Act 1986 would appear to deal adequately with the ground that the blasphemy law purports to cover. And those statutes would work in a way that is altogether more satisfactory. The offence of blasphemy, as defined by the law lords in the *Gay News* case, comes uncomfortably close to being one of "strict liability": the accused need neither be found to have intended to attack Christianity, nor to have intended to provoke a breach of the peace. It is sufficient only that he intended to publish. Effectively, it is blasphemous libel to publish words or images attacking or ridiculing the Christian religion which might possibly make believers angry: the calculation or *mens rea* of the publisher is of no import. This law has no place in modern Britain.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Is it ever acceptable for ministers to lie to Parliament?

From Mr Mike Thomas

Sir, It is self-evident that to lie in the national interest may sometimes be justified (reports and leading article, March 9). To have developed a political culture in which "economy with the truth" has become the norm is not what have we come to when politicians (and civil servants) take as their touchstone the capacity to construct verbal formulations whose crucial characteristic is that they can be plausibly claimed to have been neither misleading nor untruthful, if challenged in the future?

What happened to virtue of policy and competence in administration as desirable qualities, let alone regard for the whole truth and whether innocent persons go to prison?

Yours faithfully,
MIKE THOMAS (MP, Newcastle upon Tyne East, 1974-83, Labour, then SDP),
Forty Eight, Roundway,
New Devizes, Wiltshire,
March 9.

From the Coordinator of Charter 88

Sir, That ministers are "economical with the actuality" in their dealings with the House of Commons should come as no surprise. Mr Waldegrave has simply confirmed what MPs already know and many of the rest of us have suspected for some time.

That the "open government" minister's remarks are viewed and reported as a gaffe which is likely to seal his fate is no more than the latest symptom of the sickness at the heart of our system of government.

On February 28, Charter 88 wrote to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, which is examining the role of the Civil Service. In the introduction, we said:

Behind veils of secrecy the old traditions help to perpetuate an antiquated and undemocratic system based on Crown prerogative, Orders in Council and discretionary power, which has no parallel in the Western world.

We concluded that there should be a redefinition, by statute and ultimately within a written constitution, of the role of the State, the relationships of civil servants with ministers, Parliament and public, and the core values underpinning the public service, and that ministers and public servants should ultimately be respon-

sible to the public, and not to each other.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BARNETT,
Coordinator, Charter 88,
Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, ECI,
March 9.

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Ministers should never lie to Parliament. Nor should they play poker with it, because sooner or later their bluff will be called. Nor should they tell half-truths, intended not to mislead, because one day the whole truth will embarrassingly emerge.

All the same, there is a very limited class of question, mostly to do with market-sensitive issues such as devaluations or changes in interest rates, which should not be asked at all, or, if asked, should be met by the formula: "As is well known, we do not answer questions on these matters."

This is an entirely reasonable response which, once generally accepted, should not be misinterpreted, and in particular should not be taken to be an admission of the charge or implication which often lies behind the question.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
3 Little Tangle,
Womersley, Guildford, Surrey,
March 9.

From Mrs Caroline Clayden

Sir, No doubt William Waldegrave's head will roll as a result of his candour. But how refreshing it is to know that he is just too nice to be a minister. As a member of the public it is good to know that, however rarely, an honest man can get that far in politics.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE CLAYDEN,
The Old School, Holcombe, Somerset,
March 9.

From Mr R. S. Lane Fox

Sir, We live in a perverse age. The first time in living memory that a politician gives a straight answer to a straight question, other politicians and the press clamour for him to resign.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LANE FOX,
17 Princedale Road, W11,
March 9.

Caring, not abusing

From the Director of the NSPCC

Sir, Libby Purves ("The wrong sort of hugging", March 7) rightly points to an over-reaction by parents and others who care for children, generated by the publicity given to child abuse cases.

I am concerned that there is a threat to the progress we made in the 1960s and 1970s in recognising that children need closeness, comfort and often touching if they are to grow into reasonably well-adjusted adults, who in turn are able to provide good parenting for their own children.

Many therapists will have experience of adults who, whilst being materially well cared for, were brought up in a cold, Anglo-Saxon ethos that caused them serious difficulties in their adult relationships.

I support Ms Purves's plea, that adults and those who care for children should feel free to respond to a child's need for warmth and love. Those few who abuse this trust know they are doing so, and of course we as a society must protect children from their attentions. But, please, for the great majority of parents and carers, let us not lose the advances we have made in providing good care for our children.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BROWN,
Director, The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
National Centre,
42 Curtain Road, EC2,
March 7.

Gummer conversion

From Mrs Erik de Mauny

Sir, I write to express my sorrow at the incoherent language used by the Right Reverend David Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield, about Mr John Gummer on his conversion to the universal Catholic Church. The Bishop is reported to have accused Mr Gummer of joining "a faith that is certainly in error", and to have added: "I find it hard to forgive the ignorant silliness of a clever, well-educated man."

I owe my faith to the steadfastness of nine generations of my mother's recusant Catholic ancestors and am profoundly proud and aware of this inheritance. This does not lead me, in the 1990s, to rejoice in the present disarray of the Anglican Church: on the contrary, I rejoice in the growth of the ecumenical spirit which allows us to work and pray together, despite wide doctrinal and theological differences, in a manner impossible to us "left-footers" when I was young.

Rather than trading insults, which, by implication, reveal what seems to me a singular and Catholic bias, I feel that Bishop Lunn would do better to attempt to lessen the visible intellectual and spiritual agony of so many Anglican clergy and lay people grappling with a fundamental crisis of authority: they need compassion, not contumely.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH DE MAUNY,
19 Regent Street, Lancaster.

From Mr P. E. Roe

Sir, Epimenides, the Cretan, in the sixth century BC seems to have made his own position and that of everyone else impossible by suggesting that all Cretans are liars.

If there is a time for lying then one such time is when asked whether there is a time for lying.

Yours etc,
PHILIP ROE,
157 Verulam Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
March 9.

From Mr P. John Pope

Sir, William Waldegrave is quite correct in his opinion that there are topics on which a minister is best advised not to tell the whole truth. His error was in not realising that he was commenting on one of them.

Sincerely,
P. JOHN POPE,
Eggarston, Oval Way,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
March 9.

From Professor P. D. J. Weitzman

Sir, Following your editorial today on the importance of honesty in ministerial pronouncements in Parliament, younger readers (and those with fading memories) may like to be reminded of the 1963 limerick occasioned by the Christine Keeler-John Profumo scandal:

"What on earth have you done?" said Christine.
"You have ruined the party machine.
To lie in the nude is not at all rude,
But to lie in the House is obscene."

Ministers, too, may care to take note.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WEITZMAN,
41 Hollybush Road,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan,
March 9.

From Mr M. Davidson-Houston

Sir, How do we know a minister is telling the truth about lying to Parliament?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVIDSON-HOUSTON,
Manor Farm Barn, Tatterford,
Nr Fakenham, North Norfolk,
March 9.

From Mr Richard Wilkins

Sir, I agree entirely with Libby Purves's outrage at the paranoid fanaticism of "correctness", which forbids teachers to offer gentle physical consolation to pupils. A culture that believes that every male move is the beginning of rape needs a very large psychiatrist's couch or, more probably, the Holy Spirit.

However, sensitivity on this topic is not entirely new. My training college course 29 years ago included a lecture by a visiting headmaster on how we should minimise reasons for parental complaint. One point was: "Never put your arm along the back of a school-girl's chair."

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILKINS,
(General Secretary),
Association of Christian Teachers,
94a London Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
March 7.

From Mr Iain Stratton

Sir, How perceptive of Libby Purves's nine-year-old daughter to predict the possible future bawling of exchanging a smile with a child.

A graffito on an empty fish shop window here in Lewes reads: "Save the children — shoot the social workers!"

Yours sincerely,
IAIN STRATTON,
19 Grantham Bank,
Barcombe Cross, Lewes, East Sussex,
March 8.

Election in Italy

From Signor Franco Carboni

Sir, I am aware that trying to understand the tangled web of Italian politics is a very difficult task for a foreigner, even as it can be for an Italian (leading article, "The road to Rome", February 28). But to portray Achille Occhetto as a social democrat, who will continue the policies of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the caretaker Prime Minister, in "cutting the budget deficit and reforming public administration" and to propose as the best solution for a stable government one "with the body of Occhetto and the head of Ciampi" is perhaps a little extreme.

For a large number of Italians and for many foreigners Signor Occhetto was and remains a Communist, who still believes in the basic principles of Marxism. His recent "conversion" to the principles of a free market, privatisation, the curbing of public expenditure, as well as his acceptance of Nato after years of opposition, are all too suspect.

I hope that the liberal democrats scattered amongst the three main electoral groups will overcome minor differences and agree on a concrete programme for restructuring the state finances, reshaping the public services and implementing true social justice.

Yours faithfully,
F. CARBONI,
18 Fawcett Street, SW10,
March 1.

Scott witnesses forget the victims

From Mr J. Donald Forbes

Sir, Lord Howe complains ("Scott's salami tactics", March 1) that Lord Justice Scott is combining the roles of "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge", thereby compromising the impartiality of the enquiry and the justice for those "individuals concerned". He gives no indication that he regards the three innocent directors of Marrix Churchill who were arrested and charged as being among those "individuals concerned".

The only fears he expresses are for the "reputations" of civil servants who claim they have been humiliated by having their practices exposed for public scrutiny. Yet, so far as I am aware, not one of these men in their evidence expressed any anxiety that they were part of a system which would have sent innocent and patriotic men to prison. Not one of them has given any indication of regret that there has been gross injustice and ruination without any prospect of compensation. There have been no signs of struggles with consciences, no resignations, no shame, no recognition that changes must be made to prevent a re-occurrence.

Lord Howe's pleas and the civil servants' submissions are confined to preserving the self-interests of the latter and the continuity of a future system on which their self-esteem relies.

Yours sincerely,
J. DONALD FORBES,
Burnside of Rothiebrishbane,
Plyte, Turriff, Aberdeenshire,
March 4.

From Mr Ganesh Lall

Sir, Whilst courts have an inherent power to question the finality of a minister's public interest immunity certificate (letters, February 24, 28, March 3, 5), the occasions on which they will exercise that power will vary according to the nature of the feared injury to the public interest.

In the leading case of *Conway v Rimmer* (1968) Lord Reid said: "... cases would be very rare in which it could be proper to question the view of the responsible minister that it would be contrary to the public interest to make public the contents of a particular document."

In the recent case of *Balfour v Foreign and Commonwealth Office* (report, December 10, 1993; letter, March 5), where the Foreign Office claimed public interest immunity about the operation of the security and intelligence services, the Court of Appeal held that where an appropriate certificate, signed by the Secretary of State, claimed immunity from disclosure, the court should not exercise its right even to inspect that material to assist its decision.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,
GANESH LALL,
The Common Room,
Middle Temple, ECA.

Invasion of Kuwait

From Mr Bryan Easey

Sir, Mr Jon Kimche (letter, February 28) is mistaken in his belief that ministers might have known of Iraqi troop movements against Kuwait on July 19, 1990. The first tentative sightings were obtained by the staff of our defence attaché in Baghdad on July 22 and confirmed by them on July 22. Initial briefings in London were therefore made by the Defence Intelligence Staff, with whom I was then working, only on the morning of Monday, July 23.

This information was shared with our American colleagues and while I understood that they were able to follow the subsequent build-up by satellite reconnaissance, at no time was I ever made aware that they had any earlier evidence from that source.

The numbers of troops involved, quoted by Mr Kimche certainly relate to intelligence received from all sources in the week beginning July 23, not the previous week.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. EASEY,
39 Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3.

Fish famine

From Mrs Anne Hichens

Sir, Your report (March 1) tells us the stocks of fish in the North Sea are almost depleted and are likely never to recover. Fishermen throw away huge, dead, catches. The Danes take thousands of tons of sand eels for animal feed and margarine. Thousands of sea birds die. Please, what have we got a Department of the Environment for?

Yours,
ANNE HICHENS,
Radcot Bridge Farm,
Bampton, Oxfordshire.

Beware of the mite

From Mrs Christine White

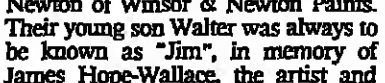
Sir, Having read about the interesting, if alarming, link between asthma and house dust mites in the home (report, March 4), I cut out the photo of the dust mite and, with a guard dog-style motto "I live here" underneath, stuck it on my teenage daughter's bedroom door. I hopefully await results.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE WHITE,
139a High Street North, Stewkley,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.



the true blues

MAJOR-GENERAL JIM HUTTON



After a succession of postwar staff appointments, including two years on the directing staff of the Army Staff

A devout and active churchman throughout his life, Jim Hutton is survived by his wife Stella, whom he married in 1945, and by their two sons and a daughter.

looking closely at the texts themselves before being too readily carried away by those books which concentrated mostly on the personalities of its medieval kings. This independent attitude of mind did not endear him to those of his

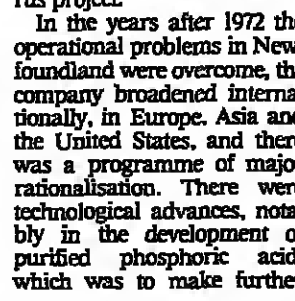
George Sayles was a man of considerable intellectual courage and honesty who had little time for academic cant and charlatanism, although most generous to young scholars and those less gifted than himself. A courteous, kind, and private man, he is survived by his wife Agnes and a daughter, his son having predeceased him.

He had a flair for composing unpretentious but engaging popular tunes. Recorded by such artists as Winifred Atwell, Russ Conway, Liberace and the orchestras of Mantovani, Billy "Wakely" Cotton, Sidney Torch and his namesake, the clarinetist and bandleader Sid Phillips, Don Phillips' compositions included "Old Piano Rag", "Concerto in Jazz", "Skyscraper Fantasy", "A Live Show is the Best Show" and

Don Phillips came from a family with no musical background. His father was a tailor living in Dalston, east London, and he left school at 14. But with his musical ability and the benefit of lessons from a local music teacher, he tried his hand at piano-playing in public houses. He was still only 15 when he was noticed at a pub in Maida Vale by the music publisher, Lawrence Wright, who ensured that he received further musical tuition and was soon displaying the sheet music of compositions by Don Phillips in the window of his premises in Denmark Street — London's Tin Pan Alley. During the Second World War Phillips was a member of an RAF entertainment unit.

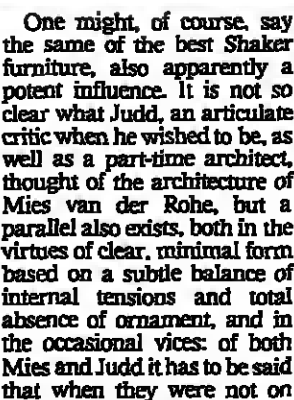
He was divorced and leaves a son and daughter.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE was the managing director of the Albright & Wilson, Britain's largest manufacturer of phosphates, nearly 15 years, from February 1972 until his retirement in November 1986 at the age of 60. When he joined the company in 1949, after a degree in modern languages at Christ Church, Oxford, it was still controlled by the Albright and Wilsons families but had become a quoted public company 12 months earlier. When he retired, Albright & Wilson was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tenneco Inc. Yet despite that profound change, the company had retained much of its character, as an international chemical company with main-branch British senior management. The continuity owed a great deal to David Livingstone, then, who became managing director soon after Tenneco acquired the right to take control of the company, following the



His posts with Albright & Wilson alternated between the company's historic base in the Midlands and London, for many years its headquarters. In Birmingham, his interests included being a life governor of Birmingham University, a member of the Council of the Education High School for

for the good of his artistic soul
Judd, like his art, was,
above all, serious. Not always
sober; his wit was too tren-
chant for that. But he was
essentially a person who re-
quired to work everything out
in advance, to have everything
under control. His sculptures
(which characteristically he
preferred to call "specific ob-
jects") were simple in form,
geometrical, immaculately
machine-finished, highly pol-
ished and sometimes (though
not often) brilliant.
They always looked work-
like, like useful, even if they
were defined as art.
Some of the free-standing
pieces in wood and polished
steel did indeed look faintly
like recognisable furniture —
chairs, tables, storage bins
and here, no doubt, his great
admiration for the furniture
of De Sille and designers like
him. But when he was, as
Rietveld showed itself, he was,



He was born in the Midwest, but brought up all over the United States as his father's job with Western Union kept the family constantly on the move. He early determined that he wanted to be an artist, but was not able to pursue his studies until after service in the Korean war. Naturally, studying at the New York Art Students League in the early 1950s, he began in the fashionable mode of the time as an Abstract expressionist painter. But his degree in philosophy, and art history from Columbia suggest another, side to his interests, and it was not long before he forsook painting for sculpture. The reason, as he saw it, the greater reality of making objects in three dimensions—first low relief and then the characteristic free-standing forms in metal, wood, or plastic of his maturity.

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PINTER WRITES HIS OWN FILM SCRIPT


THE CARETAKER

Two weeks ago we had occasion to praise Mr Clive Donner for the inventiveness and visual flair with which he handled a deficient text in *Nothing But The Best*. This week it is his sobriety and self-effacement in the screen presentation of a really distinguished text which demand our gratitude.

The text, of course, is Mr Harold Pinter's, a script he himself has drawn from his mastery stage play. The adaptation is a model of taste and economy in the meaningful re-thinking of something originally conceived in terms of one medium for another, very different medium. Mr Pinter, remarkably for a relatively inexperienced screenwriter, has resisted the temptation to open out the action indiscriminately because this is what the cinema can do and the stage cannot; instead, he has left the action which took place properly and necessarily within that one junk-filled attic room where it was, but has cut his text with an acute appreciation of what a screen close-up makes it unnecessary to say in so many words, and has inserted very few, but usually very good, shots (the garden, the snowy road outside) which serve principally

ON THESE DAYS

March 10 1964



This was the film of Harold Pinter's successful play which had been seen in London in 1960. Donald Pleasence and Alan Bates repeated the performances they had given on the stage.

to accentuate the isolation, the safe, womb-like isolation of the room in which most of the action takes place.

Thus the film becomes for its director very much an essay in analysis: there are few chances for easy picturesque effects; instead, the director must choose with the utmost intelligence exactly what his (and our) viewpoint will be at any given time, how the camera can explore more deeply into the characters without breaking up the overall rhythm of a scene. At this, Mr Donner acquires himself admirably; if his direction lacks the positive distinction of Cocteau's own screen

rendering of *Les Parents Terribles* or the stark inevitability of Bresson's *Un Condamné à Mort s'est Échappé*, it never gets in the way of the screenplay or damages its fine, close-knit texture.

But then, too, Mr Donner has been very lucky with the human material he has to work from. It is difficult to imagine how the three roles could be better acted than by Mr Alan Bates as Mick, the savage, extrovert brother, Mr Robert Shaw as Aston, the withdrawn, mentally crippled brother, and Mr Donald Pleasence as Davies, the disreputable tramp who passes briefly through their lives. If Mr Shaw emerges as marginally the most impressive, it is probably because he is the least familiar to British audiences. But all achieve a freshness and edge quite extraordinary considering the number of times they have played the roles already, and few are likely to dispute that *The Caretaker* is bound to remain one of the best-acted films of 1964.

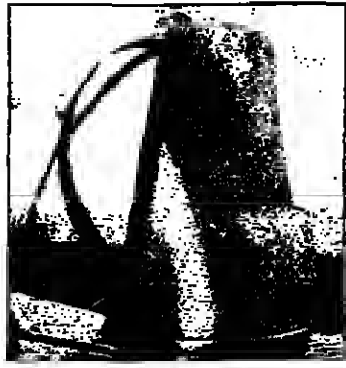
In the same programme are an inventive cartoon by Mr Bob Godfrey, *The Rise and Fall of Emily Spurd*, and a short portable, *The War Game*, which suffers slightly from the perversity of its message but amply confirms the director's gifts of Miss Mai Zetterling, and a group of distinguished television documentaries.

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B is for backpack, elegantly restyled for summer '94 in Epi leather, £275.
Louis Vuitton, 149 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-409 0155).



Louis Vuitton backpack, £275

C is for chocolates: 3lb of hand-made indulgence in a keepsake treasure-chest box costs £75.
Charbonnel et Walker, 1 The Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-491 0939).

D is for document case in finest pigskin leather with double gusset and brass lock, £171.
Smythson, 44 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 8558).

E is for Eastern & Oriental Express, the new Singapore-Bangkok version of the Orient Express. Fares one way range from £740 to £1,940 per person sharing a double compartment.
Details: 071-620 0003.

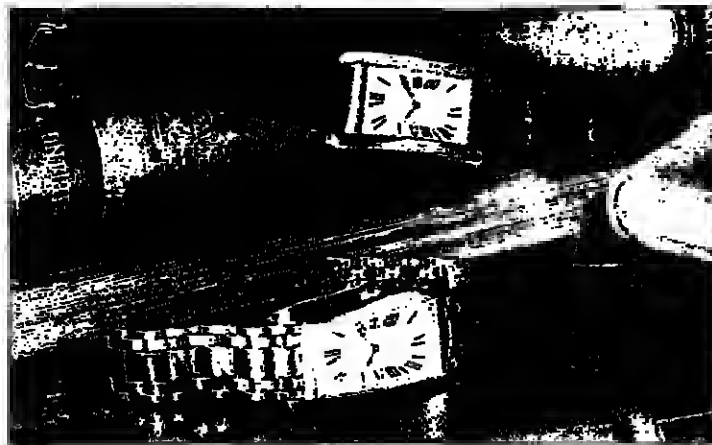
F is for First Flush Darjeeling tea, £22 a lb, the world's most expensive.
Whittard of Chelsea, 184 King's Road, London SW3 (071-351 3381).

G is for goblet in textured silver, £1,241, hand-crafted by silversmiths Gerald Benney, holders of four Royal Warrants.
From the new Wolton Street showroom, opening in May, or Beenhams House, Beenhams, Berkshire (0734 744370).

H is for a Herald & Heart hat in natural straw with tulle and camellias, made to order at £120.
Herald & Heart Hatters, 131 St Philip Street, London SW8.

I is for ice-cream dome from a Royal Copenhagen's Flora Danica porcelain range with hand-painted gold leaf, £11,316.
Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

J is for a John Lobb shoe trunk, hand-made in pearwood with leather seats, made to order from



Cartier Tank American gold watches, £5,300 (£13,150 on bracelet)

£6,500, to hold 13 pairs of shoes in separate shoe-bags with brushes and shoe-polishing stand.
Hermès, 178 Sloane Street, London SW1.

K is for kilim, £1,375, with a one-off art deco design, made in Turkey 50 years ago.
From a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1.

L is for lipstick — Kanebo's Bio Lasting Lipstick is so technically advanced it is on display at London's Science Museum. £19.95 from leading department stores.
Stockists: 0635 46362.

M is for stylish music system in a sleek 10cm deep compact cabinet by Bang & Olufsen, from £995.
Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

N is for nude statuette, a new yoga-inspired Lalique figure sculpted in crystal, £120.
Lalique, 162 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-499 8228 and for local stockists).

O is for Osprey's cashmere-lined pigskin gloves, £170.
From its new shop at 11 St Christopher's Place, London W1.



"Julie" towelling bathrobe, £119

P is for Pic-Nic, £2,950, a leather hamper containing six-piece cutlery set, Wedgwood bone china plates and Waterford cut crystal champagne flutes.
Available from May exclusively from Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, London SW1.

Q is for quilt by the specialists, Cocoon, in embroidered pale peach 100 per cent silk filled with pure silk floss, £4,965 for kingsize version.
The Linen Merchant, 11 Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 3654). Local stockists: 071-355 4629.

R is for rest and relaxation at Champneys' refurbished health spa at Tring where body treatments, facials and fitness activities combine with delicious non-fattening food and beautiful surroundings to restore body, mind and spirit. Double rooms from £165-£230 per person per night; suites from £275-£380.
Reservations: 0442 873155.

S is for shooting party, privately organised by Holland & Holland in Northwood, Middlesex, from £65 a gun plus cartridges, clays and catering.
Details: 0923 825349.

T is for travel toothbrush, hand-crafted in 18ct gold, £1,975.
Exclusively from Asprey, 165-169 New Bond Street, London W1.

U is for undressing and snuggling into "Julie", a soft, deep-pile towelling bathrobe, £119.
Boutique Descamps, 197 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-235 6957).

V is for Verdura's shell brooch, from £6,500, with diamond seaweed and sapphires or emeralds.
Exclusively from Horry Fone, 13 Duke Street, London SW1 (071-930 8606).

W is for watch, the latest Louis Cartier Tank American in white or yellow gold, £5,300

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X is (almost) for exotic Italian printed cashmere and silk bed blanket, £2,500 for kingsize.
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Return of the mummies



Over the past few years the road into Trincomalee, the

Tourism was a vital part of Sri Lanka's economy before the troubles, as one hotelier on the south-west coast ex-

Kuoni Travel (0306 740500) believes the east coast hotels are unlikely to be ready before next year, and says it will be guided by Foreign Office advice. Sri Lanka is hoping to achieve the status of Newly Industrialised Country (NIC) by the turn of the century, but is still heavily dependent on foreign aid.

Pharaoh Tuthmosis IV, one of 11 mummies on display

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

It was in an effort to counter militant Islamic criticism against the public display of the dead that President Sadat first ordered the royal remains to be locked out of sight. Only a year later, he was gunned down by those whose sensibilities he had tried to appease.

Judging by the anger of Mohammed, a 29-year-old Cairo Muslim, who was walking near the museum yesterday, more can be expected. "These dead kings should be allowed the dignity to be buried in private. They should not be shown to foreign people to gaze at them. It is very bad," he said.

A resident of the Cairo slum of Imbaba, one of the hot beds of fundamentalism in the capital of 15 million, Mohammed added: "What is worse is that they are selling photographs of these dead people. It will cause more trouble."

By ROBIN YOUNG

David Hopkins, having spent 20 years in grand hotels after hotel school in Lausanne, left his job in 1991, sold his house, and mucked in as builders' labourer, living in "a shed above a cow stall" while he worked to renovate a farmhouse in the mountainous Ariège area of the Pyrenees.

Mr. Hopkins said: "We thought the time to make a change was while things were going well. We had friends in the area and we wanted our children to experience another culture. Property prices here are about a quarter what they are in Britain, so we paid off the mortgage, and my wife found work as a district nurse."

The property the Hopkinss bought, Manzac d'en Bas at Castex (010 33 61 69 85 25), provides three bedrooms which can be let all the year round. It features as a *chambres d'hôte* in the *Gîtes de France* guide.

"We are really busy in June, July and August, and have occasional lettings the rest of the year," Mr Hopkins said. "The Ariège is astonishingly rustic and very unsophisticated. People who are used to the Ritz would only come here if they were looking for the complete opposite."

By JOHN YOUNG

THOUSANDS of exuberant Irish men and women will descend in a joyous horde upon the genteel town of Cheltenham next week on their annual Lenten pilgrimage. Their destination is not the town itself, with its elegant tea-rooms and terraces, but the great natural arena of Prestbury Park where the feast of St Patrick neatly coincides with the three-day National Hunt festival, the high point of racing's "jumping game".

Racecourse officials expect about 5,000 pilgrims to cross the water, but that is almost certainly a conservative estimate. For the Irish, horses are truly part of the national culture. Among a sports-mad population the big races, especially during the winter months, are greeted with almost as much excitement as the All-Ireland hurling and Gaelic football finals. In a country where everyone seems to know every one else, it is a rare social occasion when the talking does not turn to racing at some point.



The lure of Cheltenham

A high proportion of the hurdlers and steeplechasers in English stables are bred in Ireland, and over the years Irish trainers have produced legendary equine stars such as Arkle and Dawn Run. L'Escargot and Captain Christie.

Their success rate may have slowed, but no matter. The "crack" is as good as ever. At the free-spending visitors provide a valuable boost to the local economy.

EXECUTIVES wanting to sharpen their management skills while taking a break can book places at the summer school (July 30 to August 6) at the Astridge Management College (0442 843491) in Hertfordshire, on the edge of the Chiltern hills. The week-long break, including all activities, meals and accommodation, costs £1,200 per person or £1,800 for two people sharing.

Channel offers

EURODRIVE (081-342 8979) has a range of discounts and special deals for fares across the Channel. The company advises regular travellers to join its membership club, £8 per family per year, where subscribers are informed of special offers and can make reservations through one central number.

Continental Airlines is offering the INSPASS service to flyers who travel to America more than three times a year. A US immigration programme being tested at Newark, New York, enables citizens to be processed quickly on their arrival. Application forms are available from Concierge at Gatwick, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich and Madrid airports.

On the fast track
INTERCITY is trying out a First Class Executive Day Return package for passengers from Newcastle. Dar-

Cutting it fine
VIRGIN Atlantic now offers business class travellers a complimentary haircutting and salon service based within the Virgin Clubhouse at Heathrow Airport.

THE Trencherman's West Country, a free guide to 33 restaurants in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire, says that West Country gastronomy is undergoing a renaissance. Meal prices quoted range from £15 to £50 and 50 copies are available from the publisher board (0202 76357).

**Travel News is edited
by Harvey Elliott**

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Transatlantic battle ahead • 'Cleaner' engines under fire • Kiev airline's surprise

Air war looms as global deal collapses

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITAIN and America were yesterday preparing for an "unthinkable" transatlantic air war which could break out a week from today.

As both sides manoeuvred nobody could predict how far the confrontation might escalate. At worst, flights between Britain and America could be grounded, the diplomatic equivalent to a "nuclear exchange" — unlikely, but by no means impossible.

At the root of the battle is BA's \$400 million investment in alling USAir and the "code sharing" opportunity — allowing passengers to switch airlines on their original ticket — the deal has provided. Despite USAir's worsening financial problems, which led BA this week to decide to slow down further involvement, the deal seems certain to pay dividends eventually with increased passengers and improved profits.

Two giant US airlines, American and Delta, want the whole agreement rescinded, a move which would effectively wipe out the entire bilateral agreement.

The opportunity to scrap the deal comes on March 17 — when US transport secretary Federico Pena has to renew and approve the code-sharing agreement, under which British Airways passengers will be able to fly from more than 100 cities in the US to catch a BA transatlantic flight, and be ticketed as if they were on one airline.

Robert Crandall, outspoken chairman of American Airlines, is using his dislike of the deal as a bargaining chip in what, to him, is a bigger game. He wants Mr Pena to scrap the entire aviation agreement between the US and Britain, including the code-sharing rights, unless his airline is

given much greater access to Heathrow and rights to fly from there on international routes in competition with BA.

"It is time for the US to renounce the bi-lateral agreement, as that is the only way we will get the UK to allow us to compete on equal terms," he said.

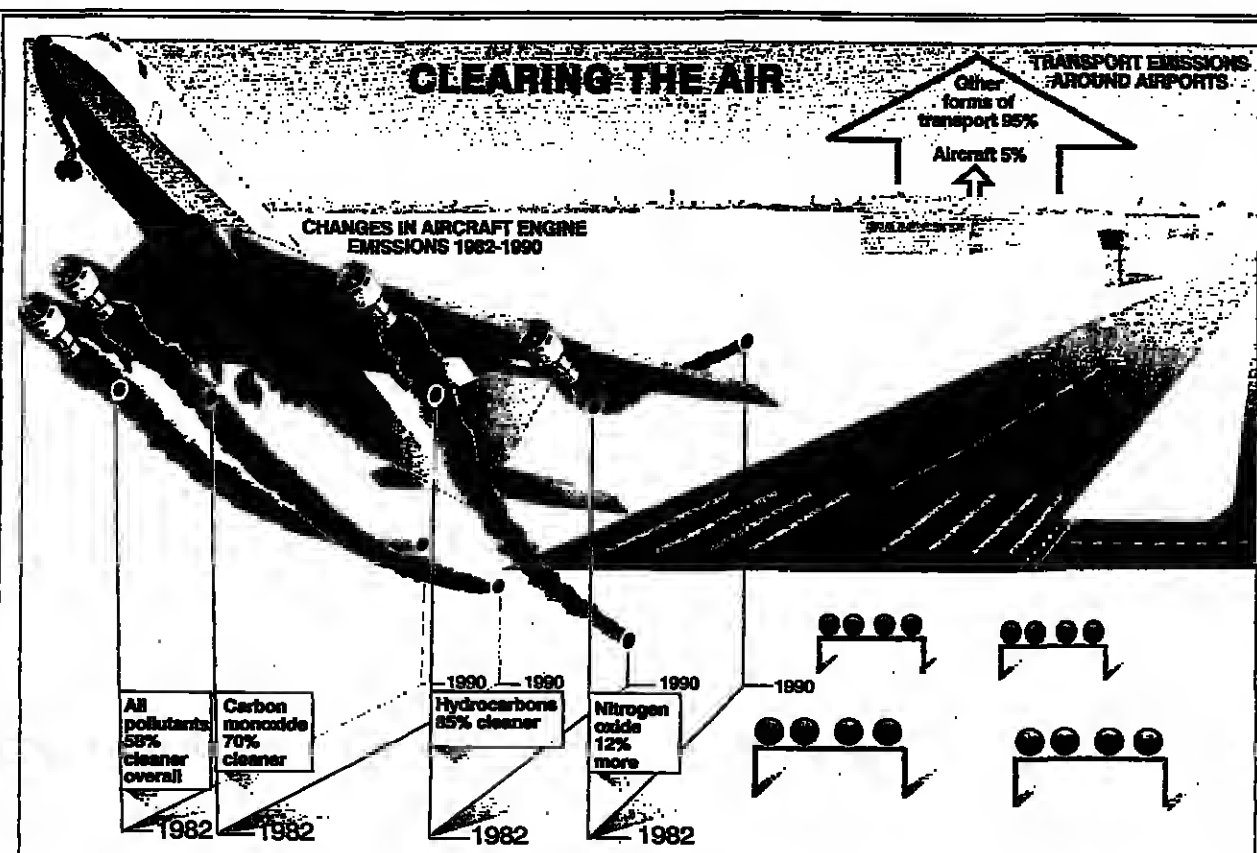
Already there are indications that the US transportation department is taking the complaints of its airlines seriously and is ready to echo America's tough stance over Japanese exports and the GATT negotiations.

In Britain, the Department of Transport is planning its own strategy and ministers have already warned that permission for some flights into Britain would be withdrawn if action were taken against BA, or if the code-sharing deal was not approved.

BA chief executive Sir Colin Marshall has shown little sign of being prepared to duck the coming fight, although his decision to hold back further investment in USAir could help to avert an immediate escalation of the dispute.

BA has a very strong card up its sleeve — its 60,000 American investors. Around 25 per cent of the 255,000 shareholders in BA are from the United States, and anything which will harm BA therefore harms them.

BA is playing a more controlled, and perhaps more powerful, hand. "A full-scale trade war in aviation between us is surely unthinkable," said managing director Robert Ayling. "I cannot imagine that the US will not comply with its international obligations." If he is proved wrong, and the unthinkable happens, there could be troubled skies ahead.



Aircraft pollutants fear

■ New engines designed to be cleaner are releasing alarming levels of nitrogen oxides into the air

POWERFUL new aero engines, designed to be quieter, cleaner and more efficient, have produced an alarming rise in the levels of nitrogen oxides being released into the air (Harvey Elliott writes).

Scientists predict that the problem is about to get much worse. While the amount of hydrocarbon pollution created by jet aircraft, both in the upper atmosphere and on the ground, will fall sharply as the new engines are introduced, nitrogen oxide levels will more than double by the year 2005, they claim.

A computer model produced by the International Civil Aviation Organisation shows that 4,797 tons of nitrogen oxides will be deposited at the average airport by 2005, compared with only 2,279 tons in 1987.

Although most engine emissions have been massive reduced over the last ten years — carbon monoxide down by 70 per cent and

hydrocarbons by 85 per cent — the amount of nitrogen oxide has already gone up by at least 12 per cent.

Nitrogen oxide is believed to contribute to ground-level smog and acid rain, and can also cause breathing problems. It is estimated that jet aircraft produce between 2 and 4 per cent of global man-made NOx emissions, but little is known about the way these emissions react in the atmosphere.

"What appears to have happened is that engines became more efficient by burning fuel at a much higher temperature," says Dr Hugh Somerville, head of environment for British Airways. "Although this considerably reduced other

emissions it actually led to an increase in the amount of NOx, because nitrogen and oxygen mix more easily at these higher temperatures."

In the United States, NASA has launched a \$100 million (£67 million) research programme to try to understand the effect of nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere, and it believes it may eventually be possible to build an engine which reduces these pollutants by 90 per cent.

At the same time leading research organisations throughout Europe have joined in a two-year project called AERONOX to study the impact of aircraft engine emissions in more detail.

According to Leonie Archer of the Oxford Institute for

Energy Studies, an expert in aircraft pollution, NOx emissions will rise until 2010 and then drop back to 15 per cent above the levels of 1990, as technology designed to overcome the problem is introduced.

In a new book, *The Environmental Impact of Aircraft on the Atmosphere* (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, £14), Ms Archer calls for even more research and a tightening of regulations on aircraft emissions, including water vapour automatically produced when kerosene burns in aircraft engines.

Despite complaints from many living near airports, and the all-pervading smell of kerosene near them, it has been proved that aircraft are themselves responsible for only 5 per cent of the emissions into the air we breathe, while other forms of transport — cars, lorries and trains — make up the other 95 per cent.

Russians face UK visas hold-up

By MARIANNE CURPHY

THE Foreign Office has been asked to investigate claims that thousands of Russian tourists are unable to visit Britain because of delays in issuing their visas.

Half of all the anticipated 80,000 Russian travellers may be effectively barred from the UK this year because the British embassy in Moscow is processing only 30 applications daily, tour operators claim. The Foreign Office denies the allegations.

The British Incoming Tour Operators Association (BITOA) also says people wanting visas have to turn up at the embassy in person, a considerable challenge in a country the size of Russia. The association has written to the Foreign Office and British embassy complaining that Britain is losing business because of the hold-ups.

The British Tourist Authority has also written to Moscow asking for the situation to be clarified.

Richard Tobias, the secretary of BITOA, said: "It is incredible that at a time when Britain is competing vigorously for visitors from countries in the former Soviet Union, our own embassy is making the job unnecessarily difficult."

"We have had a number of reports from our members that they are losing business purely because our embassy is adopting restrictive practices. I am calling for an urgent meeting with the FO to ensure this situation is addressed without delay, so that Britain can benefit from the opportunities these new markets present."

BITOA represents more than 250 companies involved with incoming tourism. One of its members, the London-based JAC Travel, says it is "increasingly frustrated in efforts to bring tourists to London" because of "slow and

complicated procedures for the granting of visas to our Russian clients".

JAC expects to carry around 500 Russian tourists in February and March, and 5,000 in total for 1994.

Diane Lequif of the tour operator London Handling said: "We have had constant problems with hold-ups in visa processing and people having to apply in person, for the last 12 months."

"Some people have paid for their holidays and had their bookings confirmed, and then been refused visas by the embassy."

"Loss of students want to come to the UK for language lessons and we could carry 20 times the number we do — currently 1,000 a year — if we did not face these delays."

A BITA spokeswoman said: "We have had a number of complaints from tour operators who are having difficulties securing visas for their clients."

"At present the UK is trying to increase its share of the Russian holiday market and we hope to attract significantly more Russians this year than last."

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said the allegations were unfounded and that extra staff had been sent to Moscow to help to clear applications.

"We are handling between 200 and 300 visa requests a day and our operator is processing a cruise brought in 650 applications at once."

"People only need to travel to Moscow if they are needed for interview."

"Otherwise they can apply for a visa by post. Because of the difficulties with hard currency and the changes in the value of the rouble we have to be assured that Russians coming here will not be a burden on the state."

Ukraine takes off

UKRAINE International, the Kiev-based airline, is flying into profit with less than 40 per cent of its seats filled — half the level needed by many West European airlines, Colin Narborough writes.

The carrier's low costs — despite operating American jets to western standards of service — illustrate the threat airlines from the former Soviet bloc can pose to West European carriers. Ukraine International is paying only a total of £133,000 a year for its 250

Ukrainian staff, compared with the average £30,000 some big western airlines pay each employee.

The airline, whose first flight was not until late 1992, flies regularly between Gatwick and Kiev. Ukraine's government owns 90 per cent and GPA, a western aircraft leasing group, holds 10 per cent. Despite the state's equity dominance, Richard Cragg, the airline's Irish deputy president, says the company is run purely commercially.

New US gateway delayed

TECHNICAL problems have caused a two-month delay at the vast new Denver international airport, which was due to open for business yesterday (Christopher Lockwood writes).

The \$2.7 billion (£1.8 billion) project will have five runways operational from the outset, with a sixth due later this year and a total of 12 projected to handle 99 landings an hour — which, at 110 million passengers a year, will make it bigger than Chicago O'Hare and Atlanta Hartsfield airports combined, and ultimately the largest in the world.

Problems centre on a new state-of-the-art baggage reclaim system which promised to have luggage on carousels even before passengers disembarked. Tests so far have shown that promise to be hollow, and both major airline operators at the airport — Continental and United — are relieved that the delay to May 15 will allow technicians to fix the system.

Until then, flights continue to operate to the existing Denver gateway at Stapleton, which will close when the new airport eventually opens.

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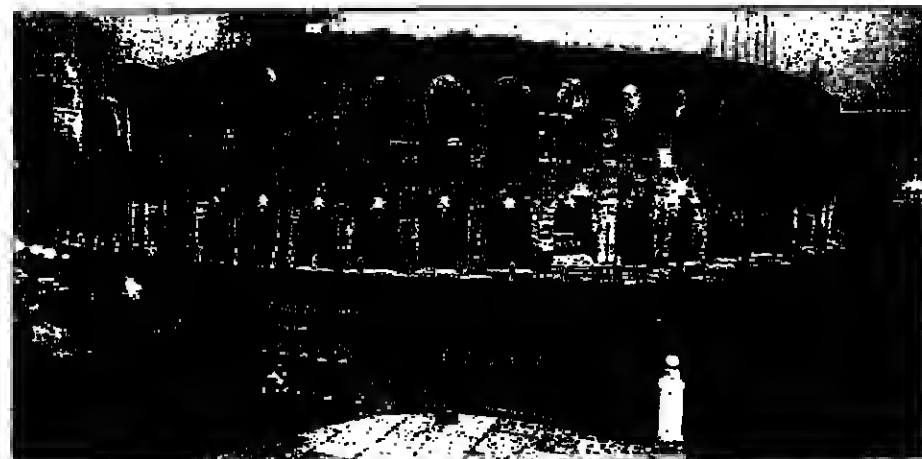
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The magnificent 2,000-year-old Arena di Verona, where you can enjoy three great operas

Italy's greatest summer festival takes place in the 2,000 year-old Roman arena in the elegant city of Verona. This huge amphitheatre holds a capacity audience of nearly 20,000 during the summer opera season, and the effusive audience and the scale of the operatic spectacle make for an unforgettable experience.

Today, readers of *The Times* are

offered a long weekend in Verona at the opening of the season, including the first nights of two of the most popular works in the Italian repertoire — Bellini's *Norma* and Puccini's *La Boheme* — plus the option to attend the first night of Verdi's *Otello*.

Set in the heart of the Veneto region, with the majestic Dolomites as a backdrop, Verona combines many of

Italy's particular charms in the intimacy of a medium-sized city, which is, richly endowed with art and architectural treasures. The old town is delightful to stroll around: the shops offer the best of Italian fashion and the Piazza Bra, the main meeting place, a choice of cafés, pizzerias and restaurants for pre- or post-performance dining.

See below what pleasures await you.

Your four days in Verona

Afternoon at leisure. Evening, optional first night of *Otello*, or enjoy an evening at one of the many fine restaurants.

Sunday, July 10: Full day at leisure in Verona. There is much to see, including the famous balcony on which Shakespeare set *Romeo and Juliet*. You can also visit "Juliet's Tomb" in the convent, or venture further afield: Verona is well connected by train and bus to other towns in the Veneto, such as Vicenza, home town of the architect Andrea

Palladio, or Lake Garda, where charming resorts, such as Sirmione, merit a visit. Evening, the first night of *La Boheme*.

Monday, July 11: Return flight, arriving at Gatwick 2.20pm.

TEMPED to join us? The cost of this splendid long weekend is £695 (single room supplement £60; supplement for superior courtyard rooms £20 per person sharing a double room). Insurance premium £20.

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nights' accommodation at the Grand Hotel with Continental breakfast, numbered Arena seats (on the lower tiers of the amphitheatre in the front section of seats) for two opening nights, plus a guided tour of Verona, including relevant fees.

• Arena seats can be upgraded to centre and front side stalls at a supplement of £35 per ticket.

• Optional tickets for the first night of *Otello* cost £82-£117.

□ This special reader's travel offer has been organised for *The Times* by Travel for the Arts, 117 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 8UR. (Airtel 9916; Airtel 2970; Jata 25665.)

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NEWS

IRA fires mortar shells at Heathrow

The IRA shattered immediate hopes of bringing peace to Ireland when five mortar bombs were fired at Heathrow airport. It was the first attack in Britain since last June.

The shells were fired from a Datsun car parked at the Excelsior Hotel in Bath Road on the airport perimeter but none exploded as they bounced off the north runway. Flights were suspended and roads were blocked. Page 1

Callaghan demands 'lies' retraction

The "right to lie" controversy took an astonishing new turn when Lord Callaghan, the former Labour Prime Minister, called on William Waldegrave to clear his name over allegations that he misled the Commons on devaluation in 1967. Tory MPs were horrified at the storm created by the minister's remarks to a select committee. Pages 1, 9

Caithness inquest

The Earl of Caithness was told twice by his family doctor that his wife might kill herself with the shotgun he kept at home, the inquest was told. Pages 1, 3

Ninth body found

The hunt for bodies in the Gloucester multiple murder enquiry was widened after a ninth set of human remains was found in the cellar of the house in Cromwell Street. The final toll could be at least 13. Pages 1, 5

Grace Kelly letters

Letters in which Princess Grace of Monaco described her life and loves as a film star before marriage, are expected to fetch £100,000 at auction. Page 3

Compensation row

Pressure on the Government to abandon its controversial compensation scheme for victims of crime intensified when the Law Society pledged financial backing for a challenge. Page 4

Riot warning

The leader of Britain's prison governors issued a blunt warning that overcrowding in jails is getting worse and that further rioting was likely. Page 6

Bishop's ban

Hugh Pratt, a protester hoping to disrupt the first ordination of women priests, has been barred from the service by the Bishop of Bristol. Page 8

Dad's Army may guard the forces

Thousands of redundant soldiers may be recruited to form a new "Dad's Army" to replace Ministry of Defence police. Up to three thousand MoD policemen could be sacked to make way for an armed home guard battalion that would protect Britain's military establishments. Some unarmed MoD guards may also lose their jobs in the cost-cutting exercise. Page 2

Repeats cut down

BBC television will show an extra 110 hours of original programmes between June and August to avoid a recurrence of last summer when 25 per cent of its schedule was repeats. Page 4

Clinton showdown

Republicans and Democrats moved towards a showdown over Republican demands for congressional hearings into the Whitewater affair. Page 13

Pressure on Britain

Britain's initiative to muster new peacekeepers for Bosnia-Herzegovina failed to raise even half the number required, adding to the pressure on Britain to make a sizeable contribution. Page 10

Police shoot rioters

Armed police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and shotgun cartridges in an effort to control crowds of striking workers and students rioting in Bophuthatane. Page 12

Price of daintiness

A girl who was turned down for a job as a mechanic because she was considered too dainty was awarded £24,000 for sex discrimination. Page 3

War cry

German soldiers are being forced to shout "Bang, Bang" when they confront the enemy during manoeuvres because of a lack of blank ammunition. Page 11



The court near Bonn that was blown up by a man who had been fined, killing himself, the judge, and six other people. Page 1

BUSINESS

Economy: John Major says inflation looks to be "under lock and key". The deputy-governor of the Bank of England said that anybody who believed that the war against inflation had been won was suffering from a delusion. Page 25

Disney: Walt Disney, parent company of Euro Disney, is fiercely resisting attempts to make it waive rights to royalties worth more than £25 million a year. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 17.7 to 3246.7. Sterling's index rose from 81.0 to 81.1 after a rise from \$1.4878 to \$1.4923 but a fall from DM2.519 to DM2.547. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Ray Illingworth, the former England captain, was named the new chairman of selectors in succession to Ted Dexter after a postal vote of the first class counties, the MCC and the Minor Counties. Pages 1, 48

Football: Manchester City, who failed to buy Ian Rush or Alan Smith, had a £750,000 offer for Paul Walsh accepted by Portsmouth. Page 48

Rugby Union: Bryan Redpath, the Melrose scrum half, will replace the injured Gary Armstrong in Scotland's final five nations' championship match. Page 45

Heart-stopping: Will a heart attack ruin an ambitious politician's chances in the House? Dr Thomas Stamford reports. Page 15

Do you mind? "Judging when to exit, leaving the audience calling for more, is notoriously the most difficult thing in show business." Lynne Truss reflects on the demise of *Minder*. Page 14

Poets' Corner: Wild and whirling essays of Ted Hughes, a not-so-towering *Inferno* and the life of Mallarmé: Antonia Fraser on maids, wives and widows. Pages 38, 39

Culture clash: Wayne Wang's film, *The Joy Luck Club*, explores the clash of ideals and experience between generations of Asian-American families. Page 35

Nightingale's nightmares: The Times's chief theatre critic, Benedict Nightingale, has just finished writing the play *Wings* and play entries for the new *Oxford Guide to 20th-Century Literature*. Now he turns his attention to some less famous names. Page 37

Television review: The BBC drama, *Shallotgrig*, was a tale of love and rejection centred on a girl suffering cerebral palsy. Page 36

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Musical talent at risk

■ Caitlin Moran on the magical musical talent of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the lifestyle which has brought him close to death

Buying armchair adventure

■ "You can stand at the top of the Empire State Building or walk through Pompeii as it was and not have to get out of your armchair." But will you buy BT's virtual travel?

Nureyev celebrated

■ On Sunday, one year after Rudolf Nureyev died, stars from the dance world mount a celebration gala in his honour.

Fred Dibnah, sleepjack now in his fifties, still shines up chimneys but domestic life has changed. *Life With Fred* (BBC2, 8pm). Page 47

Sense not soul

The latest row over how power should be distributed within an enlarged European Community has as its subject the argument over how far Europe should advance towards union. Page 17

Out, Minister

The report of a young French civil servant on public sector reform is to form the basis of a plan for Whitehall action. Page 17

Ripe for abolition

Swift action should be taken to abolish the country's antiquated blasphemy laws before the case reaches the European human rights court. Page 17

JANET DALEY

The idea that intellectual pursuit might be carried on within a context of explicit moral judgments has been in dispute throughout the modern period. Page 16

ROBERT RHODES JAMES

During the war, Brendan Bracken told the press: "I cannot tell you the whole truth, but what I tell you will be true." If there could be this degree of candour in wartime, why not now? Page 16

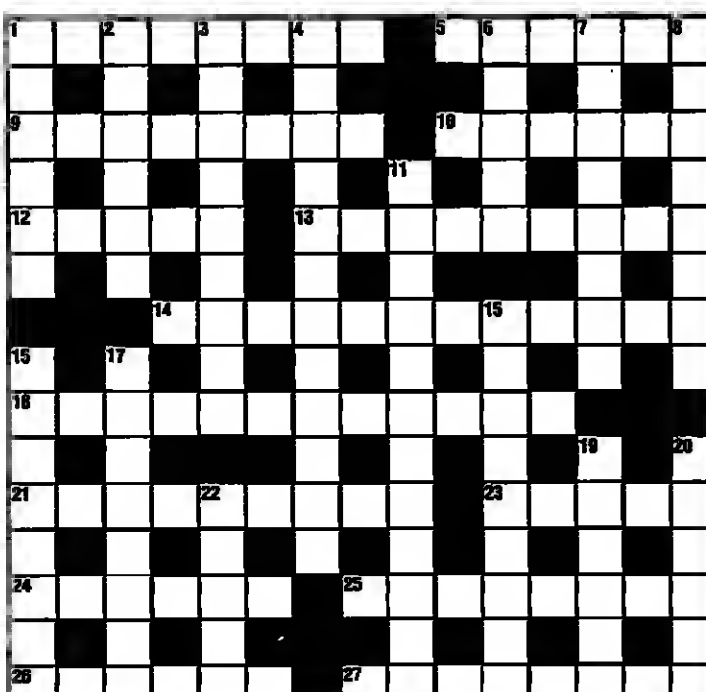
Major-General Jim Hutton, Glubb Pasha's chief of staff; **George Osborne Sayles,** historian; **Donald Judd,** artist; **David Livingstone,** managing director of Albright & Wilson; **Donald Phillips,** pianist. Page 19

Lying to Parliament: is it ever justified? Page 17

The Whitewater hearings... might lead to premature disclosure of matters that go to the heart of the enquiry. Congress should work out an accommodation and be mindful of the dangers of proceeding. — *Washington Post*

Detaining and harassing dissidents on the eve of Christopher's visit only draws attention to China's dismal human rights record. — *New York Times*

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HIGHEST AND LOWEST
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, Channel Islands, 16C (16F); lowest day temp: Avonmouth, 8.5C (47.5F); highest sunrise: Aberdeen, 6.57.

ACROSS
1 Poor writer introduces old sayings — they have a cutting edge (6)
5 Malted wine provided for a man on board (6)
9 Popular talk about Old English — only just begun (8)
10 The sound, perhaps, of Orchestre prematurely coming to grief (6)
12 CP in a thousand — cordial too (5)
13 Brighten up advert, say, by mistake (9)
14 Ineligibility for inclusion in Fuller's book (12)
18 Nicest country represented in Parliament? (12)
21 Swing to and fro in the current manner (9)
23 Employment of wise man by university (5)

DOWN
1 Couture for a show followed by a party (6)
2 Foul-sounding companion breaking into the money (6)
3 Material store in the borders of Egypt (9)
4 Six-foot swimmer abused me at a town bar (5-7)
6 Bury prisoner not born in France (5)
7 Leading women providing horse with quarters (8)
8 Be inquisitive about work she contrived to foretell (8)
11 Not in the groove — and that's confidential (3,3,6)
15 Rashness shown by a trendy, amusing person (9)
16 Glass seen around church? Rather! (8)
17 Story told before City function is held (8)
19 In Utah it identifies an island (6)
20 Crime makes youth leader sore at first (6)
22 Be prone to embrace students in the north of France? (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,485
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

General situation: England and Wales will start dry and bright with a good deal of sunshine. Cloud will thicken across northern counties during the morning, perhaps with rain by evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright at first, but rain will quickly spread from the west during the morning, reaching eastern Scotland during the afternoon. Amounts of rain in the east, though, will be small.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles: Dry with sunshine and patchy cloud. Wind west light or moderate. Max 10C (50F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N: Dry with broken cloud and some sun. Wind west moderate. Max 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lakes District, Isle of Man, NE Eng-

land: Bright early, becoming cloudy, perhaps rain later. Wind west moderate or fresh. Max 9C (48F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Bright morning, cloudy afternoon and evening with some rain. Wind west or southwest fresh or strong. Max 8C (46F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Dry early, soon becoming dull and wet. Wind southwest fresh or strong. Max 8C (46F).

N Ireland: Becoming cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle after dry start. Wind southwest fresh or strong. Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: Breezy and unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain.

Midday: 1-hourly; 2-hourly; 3-hourly; 4-hourly; 5-hourly; 6-hourly; 7-hourly; 8-hourly; 9-hourly; 10-hourly; 11-hourly; 12-hourly; 13-hourly; 14-hourly; 15-hourly; 16-hourly; 17-hourly; 18-hourly; 19-hourly; 20-hourly; 21-hourly; 22-hourly; 23-hourly; 24-hourly

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ARTS 35-37
East meets West in the Joy Luck Club — and tears flow



MANAGEMENT 40-42
New ideas for business leaders of tomorrow



SPORT 43-48
Illingworth wins nod of approval for England post

POETRY: THE STATE OF AN ART
Books 38, 39

THE TIMES

THURSDAY MARCH 10 1994

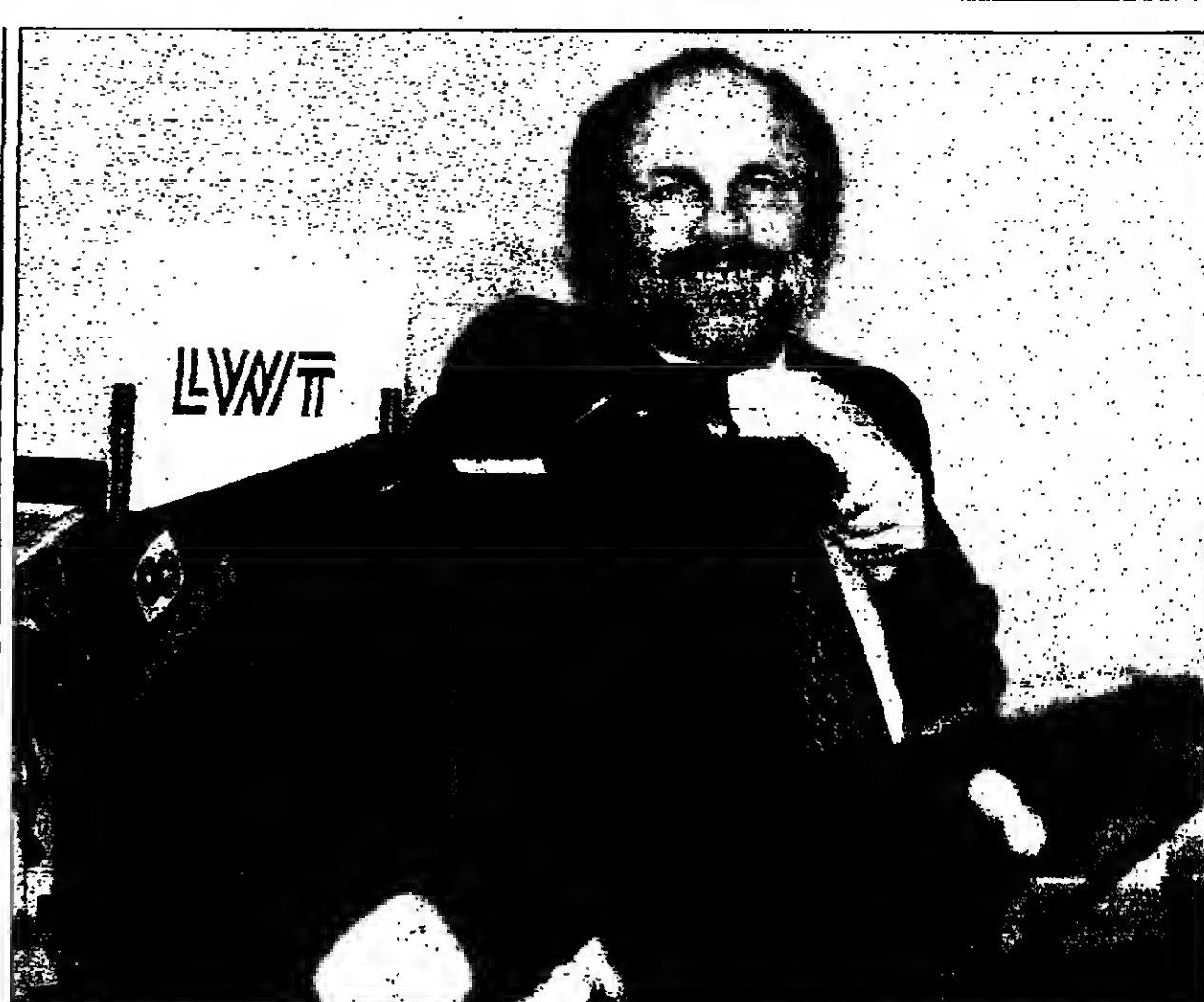
Major clashes with Bank over inflation

BY JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and the Bank of England offered diametrically opposed opinions on the inflation outlook, in an unfortunate coincidence of public comment.

John Major told businessmen in Portsmouth that inflation appeared to be "under lock and key". In London, Rupert Penman-Rea, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, said that anybody who believed the war against inflation had been won was suffering from "a delusion, and a dangerous one too".

Mr Penman-Rea's remarks undermined the Bank's desire to regain anti-inflationary credibility, which financial markets questioned when base rates were cut by a 4-point last month. The Bank, which has been stepping up its campaign to end political control of interest rates, is believed to have strongly opposed the Government's desire for a half-point cut but to have agreed on a compromise



Greg Dyke, who announced yesterday that he is leaving London Weekend Television after the takeover by Granada

Dyke to quit at LWT

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

GREG Dyke, London Weekend Television chief executive, is to stand down at the end of the month, after LWT's takeover by Granada Group. In a message to staff at LWT's South Bank headquarters yesterday, Mr Dyke said his decision had been taken for "personal reasons".

Granada, whose £771 million takeover of LWT was clinched nearly two weeks ago, said Mr Dyke's position would be filled immediately by Charles Allen, who will retain his role as chief executive of Granada Television.

Gerry Robinson, Granada Group chief executive, also confirmed he is to replace Sir Christopher Bland, LWT's chairman, who was on a salary of £103,000 and has shares in the company worth £14 million — a result of LWT's "golden handshake" share option scheme.

Mr Dyke was on a salary (including bonuses) of £174,000 in 1992, the last year for which figures are available, and holds LWT shares worth £9 million. His future as chairman of GMTV, the breakfast station, is uncertain, although insiders expect him to stand down.

BAT denies seeking to take over French insurer

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BAT Industries, the tobacco-to-insurance conglomerate, has denied widespread market rumours that it is to buy Groupe Victoire, the French insurance company owned by Banque Indo-Suez.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, BAT chairman, said "persistent speculation" had reached a stage where there was a danger that rumours of a possible related rights issue "could be capable of creating a false market in BAT Industries' shares". He said there was "no present intention" of making either an offer for Victoire, or a rights issue.

Market speculation was that BAT had looked at Groupe Victoire, but been unable to reach a deal on price. Other potential buyers are Allianz, the German insurer, and Generali of Italy.

Sir Patrick, meanwhile, was keeping BAT's options open. He said: "We are not going to preclude something that may happen next year or the year after."

The failure of the rights issue to emerge, along with 1993 figures that showed a healthy performance from the financial services side that more than balanced difficult trading in tobacco, sent BAT shares 18p ahead at 488p.

The group is paying a 12.2p final dividend, raising the total from 18.6p to 20.1p, out of earnings per share ahead from 29.3p to 38.5p. Sir Patrick said BAT was aiming to rebuild dividend cover to about two times earnings.

The group had considerable help from currency movements last year. But for these, pre-tax profits would have been just 2 per cent ahead.

Trading profit from financial services was up 39 per cent in local currency terms to £913 million. The Farmers US operation managed an 11 per cent improvement, to £531 million, trading profits at the Eagle Star business in the UK rose £164 million to £179 million, and the third leg of financial services, the Allied Dunbar operation, boosted trading profits 22 per cent to £151 million.

In tobacco, after a 5.5 per cent fall in volumes largely caused by "tobacco wars", trading profits fell 14 per cent, to £2.1 billion.

Tempus, page 29

Disney rebuffs royalties claim

BY JON ASHWORTH AND SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

WALT Disney, parent company of Euro Disney, the troubled theme park group, is fiercely resisting attempts to make it waive rights to royalties worth more than £250 million a year.

Bankers to Euro Disney have laid claim to £350 million in annual management fees, along with royalties on the sale of Disney-brand food and merchandise. They argue that the revenue would effectively act as interest payments on up to £4 billion of Euro Disney debt.

The negotiations form a key part of a proposed £12 billion restructuring package designed to revive Euro Disney's fortunes. Outline approval has been agreed by a steering committee of bankers. Walt Disney had threatened to withdraw its financial support for the project on March 31 if agreement had not been reached.

The banks, led by Banque Indosuez and Banque Nationale de Paris, are believed to have agreed in principle to a £6 billion one-for-one rights issue designed to halve Euro Disney's crippling debt burden. Further reductions could come from a debt-for-equity swap, lower interest charges, the sale of hotels, and the transfer of royalties and management fees.

Walt Disney is understood to be prepared to waive annual management fees worth £100 million, but is reluctant to set a precedent on royalty payments. Overseas consider such details to be fine-tuning and believe the immediate threat to the park's future has passed.

Pennington, page 27

quarter-point. Gerard Lyons, an economist at DKB International, said: "The Bank wants to talk tough and give the impression it is prepared to act tough. It is an antidote to the over-optimism which crept into the Prime Minister's comments."

Speaking at a credit conference, Mr Penman-Rea said monetary restraint had to become a habit. "After all the unforced errors of the past, it will take many years to prove that we have acquired it," he said, in a remark clearly critical of politicians.

Mr Major said recovery was patchy but indicators showed steady growth across many sectors. "What I believe we are beginning to get is a satisfactory platform for sustained recovery with low inflation," he said. The reaction in financial markets suggested that Mr Penman-Rea's remarks carried more weight than the Prime Minister's, with short-dated gilts coming off a little. However, the tone of bond markets and, therefore, of equity markets will be set by perceptions of US interest-rate policy.

Markets' major focus was the US Federal Reserve's Beige Book, its latest assessment of trends in the US economy. Although it came too late to help the gilts market, the Beige Book gives a relatively sanguine view of the inflation outlook, and helped US Treasury bonds.

The report says the US economy grew modestly at the beginning of the year and shows little sign of rising prices. There is evidence that prices of building materials, selected metals and some chemicals are rising but there is no upward pressure on those of manufactured goods and consumer goods.

Introducing the report, Richard Syron, president of the Boston Federal Reserve, said he saw no immediate inflation problem but the central bank had to err on the side of caution. Prospects for reducing inflation were better than for some time. Bond markets had overreacted to the Fed's decision to tighten monetary policy last month.

Mr Syron said the Fed's action had been a pre-emptive strike. It was not "something that should cause great concern in the equity markets". Volatility in bond markets in response to short-term movements in the economy was "starting to become silly".

The tone of his remarks, and the report itself, should help to rebuild confidence in battered bond markets but came too late to affect London's markets. The FT-SE 100 index closed 17.7 points down at 3,246.7.

Germany, meanwhile, reassured markets, cutting its repurchase rate from 5.97 per cent to 5.94 per cent. Dealers expect further, similar, cuts in weeks to come.

Pennington, page 27
Stock market, page 28

Earl is big loser in Royal Britain fiasco



Brandreth: under fire

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Earl of Bradford, one of Britain's richest men, lost at least £1.2 million in the collapse of Unicorn Heritage, a company set up by Gyles Brandreth, the MP, to run the Royal Britain exhibition at London's Barbican Centre.

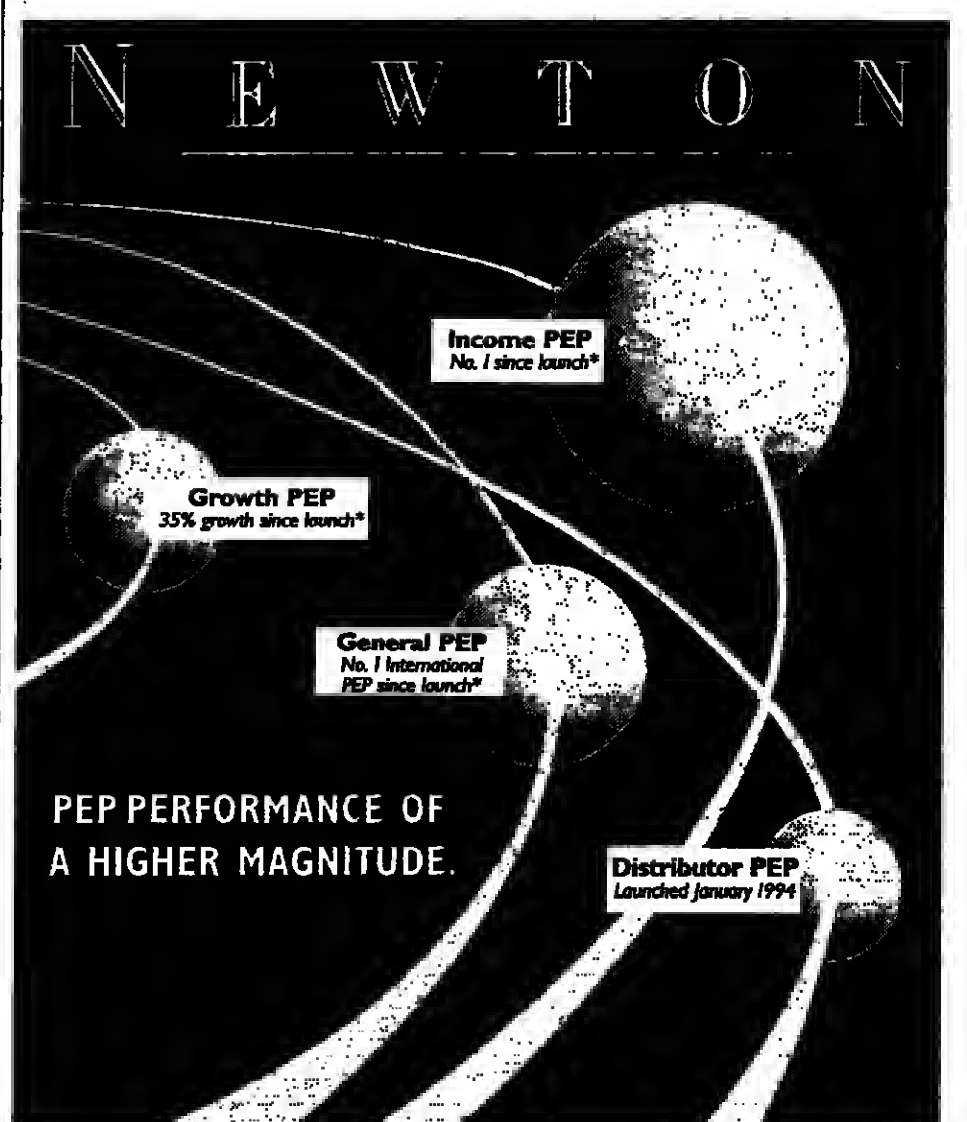
Mr Brandreth is parliamentary private secretary to Stephen Dorrell, the Financial Secretary. Yesterday, Mr Dorrell unveiled a consultative document on venture capital trusts, the new vehicle chosen by the Government to help channel money into start-up businesses, much as the now defunct Business Expansion Scheme (BES) was supposed to do. Unicorn Heritage was one company helped by the BES. Documents from

Cork Gully, appointed liquidator in June 1990, reveal that the Earl is to be paid £15,000, making him the only creditor to receive anything. He had guaranteed bank loans of £1.48 million and was a substantial shareholder.

The lack of compensation will anger thousands of private investors who raised £5 million towards the project under the BES in 1988. It is also likely to revive criticism of Mr Brandreth, MP for Chester and a well-known broadcaster, who was saw his role in the debacle come under fierce attack in the Commons in January. He faced calls to resign after it emerged that the Government had written off a £200,000 debt owed by Unicorn Heritage. He was paid £55,000 a year at the time of the collapse.

Investors had been drawn to the BES scheme by the prospect of £1 million in annual profits. In the event, Unicorn Heritage went bankrupt within two years, owing £8.8 million. Sir Leslie Porter, president of Tesco, was non-executive chairman of the company. Mr Brandreth was deputy chairman and artistic director. Cork Gully has told creditors that the failure to find a buyer for Royal Britain means no funds are available for general distribution. A meeting has been called for March 28.

Stephen Dorrell, page 26



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STOCK MARKETS		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3246.7 -17.7	DOW JONES 3608.51 -14.91	Dm 2.5477 -0.0042	US \$ 1.4923 +0.0045	\$779.55 -0.02	BRENT CRUDE \$13.20 per barrel (Apr)
Midday trading figure		MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 30			

Vallance says end ban on TV via BT

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN could face a loss of jobs comparable to the 1980s rundown of manufacturing if ministers fail to ensure provision of infrastructure needed for the coming information revolution, Sir Iain Vallance, the chairman of BT, said.

Opening evidence to a Commons enquiry into future Optical Fibre Networks, Sir Iain called for an end to the ban on BT providing cable television broadcasts via telephone lines. Lifting the ban would trigger a race to build rival £15 billion broadband networks.

Sir Iain told MPs that the future competitiveness of nations will be partly determined by the availability of information networks capable of carrying simultaneous telephone, television and computer data between homes and businesses.

Although BT had invested more in developing broadband technology than any other telephone company in the world, it was unable to justify building a full network because of a ban on BT broadcasting television via phone lines. The ban was to stimulate construction of a UK second telephone network by cable television companies but had outlived its purpose.

Britain had a "partial,

and tenuous" lead in the information revolution that links telephones, computers and radio-phones, Sir Iain said. Because the technology was still being developed, and standards determined, Britain had until about 1997 to devise a new strategy. The best approach would be for BT to develop two fibre optic networks, competing against each other and cellular telephone links to service customers.

If BT remained barred from competing, the company would try to develop the market by offering video on demand, to "make the most" of its existing narrow band network. But there was a risk that investment to upgrade the network — £3-£4 billion a year — would go elsewhere.

Richard Caborn, the committee's Labour chairman, told Sir Iain he, too, was concerned that competition in UK markets was sometimes given precedence over the ability of UK companies to compete internationally. "I think this is something we have to take into account when we draw up our report," he said. The committee has also arranged for evidence from Mercury Communications, BT's main competitor, and the Cable Television Association.

Lloyd's may make new offer

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

THE attempt by Lloyd's of London to end years of legal actions by thousands of loss-making names is not dead. It appears to be on ice until the High Court rules on the Gooda Walker Action Group case, the first major action due to reach court.

Last month, names rejected overwhelmingly a £900 million global settlement offer from Lloyd's, gambling instead on receiving bigger payouts from the courts.

In spite of numerous reiterations by David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, and Peter Middleton, chief executive, that the offer was "final", it emerged yesterday that Lloyd's may reopen negotiations later in the year.

Mr Middleton, speaking yesterday at a Society of Names conference, Lloyd's is dead: Long live Lloyd's, said he expected "a movement to try again to see if some kind of resolution is possible. But it couldn't get under way until there is a ruling later this year on the Gooda Walker case."

Speaking of the last offer, which only won favour with names representing 38 per cent of the total £900 million, Mr Middleton said: "I don't think it was wholly a failure because on the way we have built up relationships with action groups and some of the underwriters. That means that if something begins to happen later in the year, then



Peter Middleton, yesterday, who is waiting for a ruling on Gooda Walker after constant reiterations of Lloyd's offer being final

we are starting from a more promising place than in January 1993 when we first began to kick around the idea of a settlement offer."

He said: "It is my private view that it would be helpful for there to be the Gooda Walker case on April 26 because it will be generally

helpful for the whole society for a case to be tested by law."

Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Group, which represents 3,000 litigating names and a speaker at the conference, agreed: "I think it is in the general interest of Lloyd's to settle. I believe that our case will help

the possibility of a general settlement."

A judgment on the Gooda Walker case, which is expected to last 12 weeks, could be made before the autumn. There are a further 30-odd actions planned by other groups of names. Mr Middleton forecast that there will be a further

shake-out of Lloyd's agents and underwriters as the insurance market strives to lift its level of professionalism. Some agents may as well shut up shop, he said, "as they are never going to meet the performance criteria we are going to set. Some of the rubbish will have to go."

EBRD cuts its costs

By Colin Nabbrough

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), attacked in the past for spending far more on premises and staff than on its target economies in the former Soviet bloc, has pared operating costs below budget and produced its first profit ahead of schedule.

The bank's 1993 figures showed a 257 per cent jump to 435 million euros (£330 million) in funds disbursed to Eastern and Central Europe.

The results were the first since Jacques de Larosière took the helm after the ousting of Jacques Attali, the first EBRD president, last summer. In spite of the belt-tightening under M de Larosière, some EBRD governors are expected to raise, at the annual meeting in St Petersburg next month, the question of the cost of the bank's resident board of 23 directors.

After total provisions of 59.7 million euros, the EBRD showed a net profit of 4.1 million euros last year, moving into the black for the first time since it was set up in 1991. In 1992, it incurred a net loss of 6 million euros. Ninety-one new projects were approved last year, up from 51, almost two-thirds in the private sector. Money committed almost doubled, to 1.79 billion euros.

Pennington, page 27

BAT INDUSTRIES

Earnings per share up 31%

Preliminary results for the year to 31 December 1993

REVENUE	£25,063m	+13%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,809m	+10%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	38.5p	+31%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	20.1p	+8%

- The rise in pre-tax profit demonstrates the resilience of our strategy, with a year of exceptional difficulty for tobacco offset by firm recovery in financial services.
- Record financial services trading profit of £913 million from continuing businesses, up 53 per cent, with much improved underwriting results and good progress from life companies.
- Tobacco trading profit fell by 8 per cent to £1,210 million. Sustained drive to reduce costs reflected in £73 million rationalisation programme in 1993. Strategic exchange of brands contributed £138 million.
- Strong balance sheet with Group's net debt/equity ratio down from 55 per cent to 40 per cent.
- "Our goal for the years ahead is to deliver superior total returns to shareholders, based on the profitable opportunities for growth in both financial services and tobacco. The Board remains committed to significant dividend growth, in real terms, as can be seen from the recommended final dividend of 12.2 pence, which gives an increase of 8 per cent for 1993."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dorrell calls on CBI for investment advice

THE Government yesterday called on the Confederation of British Industry and its members to enter into a dialogue about how best to ensure that savings flow towards the most effective forms of investment in the economy. Stephen Dorrell, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who is leading a Government review, outlined a series of wide-ranging questions which he hopes will form the basis of discussion with industry. He also unveiled a consultative document on new Venture Capital Trusts, announced in the Budget, which form part of the Government's review.

The consultative document on Venture Capital Trusts, designed to channel savings into the unquoted company sector, called for comments on whether these new vehicles would be attractive to investors and would significantly increase the amount of capital available to small firms.

Society bounces back

THE Alliance & Leicester Building Society has bounced back with pre-tax profits up 67 per cent to £205 million last year. The charges for losses and bad debts fell £78 million to £126 million and the number of residential properties taken into possession fell 25 per cent, while the arrears on residential lending fell £30 million. Administrative expenses were down by £12 million to £627 million. The society increased its lending during the second half, making mortgage advances of £1.5 billion during the year. Girobank recorded £75 million pre-tax profits, up 17 per cent.

Guinness Peat soars

GUINNESS Peat Group, the UK financial services group headed by Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, boosted pre-tax profits to £27.7 million in 1993 against £7.7 million in the previous 15 months, assisted by the takeover of Brown Shipley, the merchant bank. Sir Ron said trading performance was helped by buoyant market conditions. Earnings were 3.76p a share, up from 1.39p, but there is again no dividend. The company also proposes a one for 10 rights issue at 25p to be followed by a one for 10 bonus issue, including cash issue allotments, raising up to £8.5 million.

Clinton jobs package

PRESIDENT Clinton announced a \$13 billion jobs package, emphasising retraining and job placement. The announcement came a few days before the Group of Seven jobs summit in Detroit. The proposal is referred as the Re-employment Act and marks a shift from benefits to facilitating restructuring in the US economy by providing help for workers in dying industries. The Act concentrates on retraining and job placement, with special focus on "rust-belt" industries, the military and industries expected to suffer as from trade liberalisation.

British Land bond

BRITISH Land has raised £150 million in convertible irredeemable bonds at 6 per cent. The conversion price is 530p, compared with 407p for the ordinary shares, and the company may redeem the bonds at par after year seven. The bonds, which have been placed by Swiss Bank Corporation, contain the unusual feature of having no maturity date and can be exchanged after two years, at the option of the company, into irredeemable preference shares and back again to bonds at the same conversion price. Recent property purchases by British Land have exceeded £150 million.

Cupid chief resigns

CUPID, the bridalwear group that earlier this week warned of large losses, revealed last night that Richard Shaw, its chief executive, has resigned with immediate effect. Mr Shaw and the company had agreed that, as part of a corporate restructuring, his skills were no longer needed, said USM-quoted Cupid in a statement. Simon Raynaud, the non-executive chairman, and Stephen Riley, finance director, will split the role of chief executive. Mr Shaw, chief executive for a year, was on a one-year rolling contract, with a last publicly reported salary of £75,000.

Liquidators at MGI

MUNICIPAL General Insurance, a subsidiary of Municipal Mutual Insurance, is in the hands of provisional liquidators, since its assets may be insufficient to meet liabilities. MGI stopped writing new business almost two years ago. At the end of 1992, assets matched liabilities of £280 million but some payments have since been made. Last month, it emerged that claims might increase, mainly because of stop-loss policies provided to Lloyd's names. A review led to the appointment of Gareth Hughes and Nigel Hamilton, of Ernst & Young, as provisional liquidators.

□ Different words on inflation reveal a real debate □ Less ambition at the EBRD □ Walt and his bankers talk turkey

High price to throw away the key

WHERE is that inflation monster safely under lock and key, as the head keeper boasts or, as the number two white hunter would have it, lurking in the woods, ready to pounce on unsuspecting prime ministers suffering from the delusion that Britain has won the war and can safely relax? At one level, it is merely innocent mischief to contrast yesterday's phrases from John Major and Rupert Pennington-Rea. Neither thinks a resurgence of inflation a present danger. They express the different viewpoints of a politician eager to land his plus points and a central banker anxious to justify his existence.

Yet these different perspectives are important. They underlie each monthly debate between Governor and Chancellor over interest rates — and we shall shortly learn the outcome of the latest. Essentially, that argument is over medium-term priorities. Should the aim of bringing inflation under 2 per cent take precedence? Or should interest rate policy be dictated by the needs of recovery, provided underlying inflation is not going to breach the 4 per cent ceiling?

On the bank's perspective, the priority is to prevent the danger of inflation re-emerging. Hence, interest rate policy should look ahead. Real interest rates should therefore rise slowly and nam-

rally as the economy moves further along the upswing of the economic cycle. Nominal base rates could stay down only to the extent that inflation continues to fall on track. On that thinking, base rates should not at this stage be cut beyond, say, 5 per cent, where the real short-term rate would be about 2½ per cent on the most favourable measure.

The weakness of the Bank's position, however, is that base rates should have been markedly lower during that long period when the economy was bumping along the bottom. In America, they were much lower for a long time, yet as the latest Federal Reserve beige book notes, there is no sign of inflation accelerating although recovery is eighteen months ahead of Britain's and has been noticeably healthier. Looking ahead, the Fed has only thought it necessary to add a quarter point on the Fed funds rate, though that has had a disproportionate impact on financial markets. The discount rate might reasonably rise over the coming months to 4 per cent to match the cycle. If Britain sticks to that line, the best we

could hope for on the inflation projections would be a steady 5 per cent base rate for a year or so, which would leave British growth subdued by a higher money interest rate over the cycle.

That might be seen as the price to be paid for high inflation at the end of the Eighties. Politicians and voters might humbly suggest that if accelerating inflation is not on the horizon, whether it is locked up or no, and monetary policy is forward-looking, the jobless should not have to pay that price for ever. If recovery slows, that question will become pressing at those meetings between Treasury and Bank.

Don't lose sight of Eastern promise

TO BE KIND, as almost every one is inclined to be to sound, solid Jacques de Larosière, 1993 was a year of transition for the European Bank. It has not shaken itself to pieces, as it might had Jacques Attali stayed at the helm: instead, the new regime has understandably concentrated on stability and on getting



costs under tight control. But this is still a bank with a mission to pump out money for investment to help transform the former state economies of central and Eastern Europe. It is not the politically driven institution M. Attali wanted, but nor should it be the bank like any other bank that he feared.

Thus far, the European Bank has yet to justify the high hopes that brought it into existence with a starting capital of nearly £8 billion and many times that in potential lending capacity over its first five years. By the end of 1993, it had approved financing of £2.8 billion, promised £2.1 billion of that, but had lent only £400 million. By contrast, it is already sitting on liquid assets of

£3 billion, on which it is earning enough of a turn on interest rates to record an overall profit. Jolly good for a normal bank but no more than a launching pad for this one.

Business takes time to build up. In some countries, the EBRD still faces the original problem that state institutions in its target countries have been collapsing faster than the legal and financial infrastructure for the private sector develops. In many client nations, however, that problem is easing, so the bank's progress should be accelerating rapidly, if unevenly. Yet the new regime does not seem particularly ambitious. Management does not expect to disburse more than £3.4 billion over the next three years.

In part, that is because the former satellite economies of central Europe are re-emerging so fast. The Czech republic, Poland and Hungary, the European Bank's first happy hunting grounds, are now also hunting grounds for multinationals and private funds — as well as other EC and international institutions. There is talk of "saturation". At the same time, some jealousy has developed among the poorer countries, well represented on the EBRD's costly board of national directors, that central Europe is getting too much of the cake. In reality, there is plenty for all if the European Bank can demonstrate that its role is crucial. And it should not shrink from healthy competition. If stability is allowed to deteriorate into premature middle age, the bank's sponsors will lose interest.

Disney's white knuckle ride

EURO DISNEY is becoming more like Eurotunnel every day. With Walt Disney and the banks playing the roles of contractors TML and, yes, the banks. Outside shareholders are cast as Cinderella, cringing as they watch helplessly the confrontations at the brink. In this case, far more than at Eurotunnel, it has been clear from the start that there are potential happy endings should anyone wish to write them in. Barring accidents, Cin-

derella will go to the ball, if only in rags.

By the chance of timing, the banks were enjoying what now seem unreasonably high interest rates. By design, Walt Disney wrote an outrageous combination of royalty and management fee rake-offs into the original prospectus that would surely not have been accepted by investors had they not been entranced by the fantasy that everyone would earn huge amounts of jam today, tomorrow and forever.

Walt Disney, rapidly writing itself into the role of wicked witch, has still been trying to waive these clauses temporarily rather than scale them right down permanently. This will not do. Euro Disney has turned out to be an ordinary, if rather large, theme park and it needs a much more ordinary capital structure to match. The threat of impending closure and financial wrangling, belying the friendly carefree image the complex seeks to project, have already done much damage to this year's business. Banks and Disney should shake hands as soon as possible, not cling to the negotiators' perch for a thrilling climax on March 31, or even a bit after. Unless the white knuckle rides are reserved for paying customers inside the park, the negotiators will have less and less to negotiate about.

Standard bank to focus on Far East markets

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, is planning to focus attention on its activities in Asia and the Far East. It will sell less profitable businesses in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that are not linked to those regions.

Patrick Gillam, the chairman, said the bank's strategy is to use its bases in Britain and America, and its alliances with First Interstate Bancorp and Westdeutsche Landesbank, to serve its franchises in newly industrialised and emerging markets.

Businesses that are not part of this strategy will be sold, unless they are significant profit earners.

The policy appears to put a "for sale" sign over Chartered Trust, the group's UK car financing arm, though a sale in the short-term is thought unlikely.

Mr Gillam said there are a number of American businesses left over from the bank's previous strategy of trying to be a substantial player in the American market. Mr Gillam yesterday unveiled a 112 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £401 million for 1993.

The bulk of profits came from the Asia-Pacific region, with trading profits of £219 million from Hong Kong operations and £128 million from other Asia-Pacific countries.

Malcolm Williamson, the chief executive, said that Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand all fared well. The performance of the Japanese business was hit by a provision of just under £20 million relating to a corporate loan.

Standard Chartered gave no further details, but said



Patrick Gillam, left, and Malcolm Williamson look East

there could be future litigation. The bad debt charge fell from £364 million to £233 million. Of this, half was in respect of long-standing non-performing loans in Britain. The bad debt figure for Britain was £159 million, up from £123 million. As a result, British operations incurred a trading loss of £20 million, down from £55 million in 1992.

The bank is planning a one-for-four share split to improve marketability of shares. Standard Chartered is also planning to apply for a secondary listing of its shares in Hong Kong and Singapore this year, as much of its business and a large proportion of its assets are in these areas.

Mr Williamson said that one of the objectives for this year was to address the bank's cost base. Management bonuses would be linked to control of costs. He added that part of this would be to centralise back office administration in the bank's regional centres.

Australian boost for O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

INDEPENDENT Newspapers (INP), the Irish media company controlled by Tony O'Reilly that owns 29.9 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, earned record pre-tax profits of £129 million (£27.8 million) last year, up 80 per cent on 1992, despite turnover of £1.173

million barely moving from the previous year's £1.170 million.

A sparkling performance from its Australian outdoor advertising and newspaper interests complemented a solid performance from its Irish titles. Earnings per share were 130.5p, 57 per cent up on 1992's 119.4p.

The figures include an exceptional

investment gain on the brief investment in Mirror Group, net interest received rather than paid and earnings from acquisition. Stripping those out, INP recorded operating profits of £127 million, against £122.2 million in 1992. A final dividend of 17p is proposed, making a total of 111p, up 18 per cent.

INP was optimistic on prospects,

expecting to benefit from economic recovery in Britain and Australia and a continued strong performance in Ireland. The balance sheet was strong at the year end with shareholders funds of £185 million and debt of £135 million. The company has spent almost £150 million on acquisitions since its year end.

GLOBAL EXPANSION IN BEVERAGES AND CONFECTIONERY

1993 RESULTS

"The momentum with which we began 1993 has been maintained. Our full year results show significant growth over 1992 in profits, earnings per share and dividends. Underlying growth in earnings per share, after adjusting for structural change and favourable exchange rate movements, was 9.8%."

Sales	£3,724.8m	+ 10.4%
Trading Profit	£436.0m	+ 17.6%
Pre-Tax Profit	£416.3m	+ 25.1%
Earnings per Share	30.59p	+ 15.8%
Dividend per Share	14.40p	+ 9.1%

A final dividend of 10.80 pence is proposed, up 9.1%, giving a full year dividend of 14.40 pence, an increase of 9.1%, reflecting the Board's confidence in the momentum of the Group worldwide.

We have made substantial progress in implementing our strategy. In beverages, we acquired in the US both A&W Brands, US market leader in root beer, and a substantial shareholding in Dr Pepper / Seven-Up. In confectionery, developments included the acquisition of an 80% interest in Productos Stani in Argentina and greenfield factory developments in Poland and China.

It is early to comment on 1994 trading prospects. Competition remains intense but we expect to show further progress this year. We have a strong base from which to continue our growth."

Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE

Merchant bank thrives

SINGER & Friedlander, the merchant bank, showed a huge profit upturn from £6 million to £34.4 million last year, including an £11.99 million exceptional profit on share sales (Patricia Tehan writes). Profits before tax and exceptional rose 38.8 per cent to £22.43 million.

In 1992, profits had been depressed by a £10.1 million property writedown. Last year, the company made an exceptional profit of £15.87 million on the sale of holdings in ACT and Burford Group, offset by a £3.88 million writedown of its property portfolio. The dividend for the year rises 15 per cent to 3p a share from 2.6p, with a 1.75p final (1.6p). Earnings were 13.1p a share (0.76p).

Best-ever profit at Morgan Grenfell

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PROFITS at Morgan Grenfell, the British merchant bank owned by Deutsche Bank, soared to an all-time high last year after a 194 per cent increase to £235.8 million before tax. The figure compares with the bank's past record of £82.2 million set in 1986.

The main engines for the profits growth were treasury operations, where profits doubled, and debt arbitrage and trading business, where profits were five times higher. John Craven, the chairman, said that together the two contributed 30 per cent of gross revenues.

He said: "Every single operation turned in higher profits than the previous year and considerably higher than budget."

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management saw funds under management increase from £20.5 billion to £28.3 billion, with 65 per cent of funds under management de-

riving from clients outside the UK. Net new business was worth £2.5 billion. Mr Craven said net new business in the first two months of this year has already reached £1.5 billion.

Morgan Grenfell advised on 145 corporate finance transactions worldwide, worth £12 billion, up from £7 billion. The Deutsche link paid off in continental Europe, where it was ranked first by number of cross-border transactions.

Debt arbitrage and trading volumes rose from \$68 billion in 1992 to \$118 billion.

The volatility in currency markets and the trend to lower interest rates across Europe gave the group's treasury business "excellent trading opportunities in the foreign exchange, debt and derivatives markets", the bank said.

Shareholders' funds were £448.4 million after a £100 million dividend paid to Deutsche.

ECONOMIC VIEW

How the Ministry of Truth views protection of pound

Efforts to defend the currency against devaluation have usually proved futile, stupid and self-destructive, Anatole Kaletsky says

George Orwell would have loved it. The newly discovered constitutional principle that ministers have a "right to lie" to the public and Parliament has been announced by none other than William Waldegrave, the Minister of Truth specifically appointed by John Major to promote public accountability and "open government". But apart from its political and moral ramifications, the Waldegrave principle touches on economic policy and history in a number of significant ways.

In his retraction (or "clarification") of the original comment, Mr Waldegrave emphasised yesterday that he was referring only to the small number of "exceptional cases when it is necessary to say something that is untrue to the House of Commons". In fact, the Minister for Truth said yesterday that there had been only two "exceptional cases", when Labour Chancellors had allegedly lied to Parliament about government policy in their efforts to defend the pound against devaluation.

For anyone concerned about economics, this statement raises four interesting questions. The first is why Mr Waldegrave confines himself to Labour Chancellors, the first of whom is dead and the second appears not to actually have said anything mendacious. There is, in fact, a much clearer example of lying to protect the currency still fresh in most people's memories and much more relevant to the present Government's reputation.

On September 14, 1992, Norman Lamont, the then Chancellor, said: "There is no question of any change in the central parity of the pound against the Deutschmark and the Government will take whatever action is necessary to secure that." Two days later central parity was abandoned, without the draconian actions promised by Mr Lamont. British interest rates were raised, but only to 15 per cent. And less than half the Bank of England's reserves were spent the currency markets.

By contrast, the Swedish and French governments continued to fight the speculators much longer, raising their interest rates as high as 100 per cent — and squandering the whole of their foreign exchange reserves — in the futile battle against the markets. Obviously it would have been extremely damaging to the national interest if Mr Lamont had stuck to his unrealistic pledge. By the evening of White Wednesday, most people in Britain were heartily relieved that Mr Lamont turned out to have been lying, but that does not alter the truth-value of his September 14 statement.

The second interesting point is raised by the distinction between bare-faced lying and mere "deception". The official guidelines to which Mr Waldegrave referred actually set a far higher standard. They state that ministers have a duty "not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public". On that basis, ministers told some big whoppers in the summer of 1992.

Take Mr Major's memorable "quack doctors" speech to the Scottish CB1 on September 13, 1992: "Now we have the inevitable chorus of quack doctors peddling their remedies. But miracle cures simply don't work. Never have and never will. We would need our present policies, whether or not Britain



Norman Lamont, the then Chancellor, explaining why Britain pulled out of the exchange-rate mechanism

was a member of the ERM. The soft option, the devaluer's option the inflationary option would be a betrayal of our future and I tell you categorically that it is not the Government's policy [Applause]."

Or consider Mr Lamont's speech to the European Policy Forum in July 1992. "Leave the ERM and cut interest rates? It would certainly be the end of the battle against inflation — we would have surrendered. And quite soon interest rates would have to go back up again, to much higher levels than they are today."

Stretching a point, the guardians of ministerial honesty (if any such really existed) might argue that promises to defend the pound had to be abandoned in the light of unpredictable events. But Mr Lamont's comment about the interest rate consequences of withdrawing from the ERM cannot be thus defended. It was a clear deception.

For the Chancellor did not say that interest rates might rise if sterling left the ERM — he said that they would go up and to "much higher levels". In making this categorical assertion, at a time when many competent economists (including some within the Treasury and the Bank of England) were telling him that interest rates could be sharply cut outside the ERM, the Chancellor was manifestly "deceiving or misleading Parliament and the public".

The Ministry of Truth would presumably argue in his defence that the former Chancellor was acting in the national interest. As Mr Waldegrave said, the defence of sterling, along with the defence of the realm in time of war, is a matter of such importance that it justifies not just the usual ministerial evasions, but even statements that are positively untrue.

This raises the third economic question. Why does everyone say "hear, hear" when Mr Waldegrave justifies lying about the pound? One can

understand why ministers might have to lie about military manoeuvres, espionage operations, and perhaps even their contacts with the IRA. But no one would die if Chancellors refused to lie about sterling. The country would not be dismembered by foreign invaders. The lives of secret agents would not be put at risk. In a fixed-exchange rate regime, the reserves at the Bank of England would, of course, be put at risk by a Chancellor who admitted to the possibility of devaluation. But it is not even a matter of saving money. Worries about the reserves hardly justify a moral carte blanche for Chancellors.

If only Mr Lamont had told the truth about the benefits of leaving the ERM in his EPF speech on July 10, sterling might have been forced out of the ERM two months earlier, thousands of jobs would have been saved, the public sector borrowing requirement reduced and taxpayers might have avoided paying £5 billion to George Soros and other speculators on White Wednesday. Why then is there unanimous agreement in Britain that sterling is a cause worth lying for? Why on earth is defending sterling considered a matter of national importance? Why, in fact, should anyone think it important or desirable at all to defend and overvalue the pound at a higher level than the one the markets set?

Every chapter of Britain's economic history since 1918 demonstrates that efforts to defend the pound's external value, either against gold, the dollar or the mark, have consistently proved disastrous. The gold standard was the reason Britain fell quickly into depression after the First World War, while the rest of the world enjoyed the roaring Twenties. If there was one clear reason Britain, the victor in the Second World War, had to maintain rationing until 1949, it was because the

pound was absurdly overvalued. And even after Sir Stafford Cripps's 30 per cent devaluation, the pound remained uncompetitively high against the mark, the yen and other currencies. This was a crucial reason why Britain as well as America were steadily overtaken in the Sixties as manufacturing nations by Germany and Japan.

In the past year or two, politicians in many countries outside Britain have begun to realise that "defending" strong currencies is stupid and self-destructive.

The American and Japanese governments, in particular, are both trying to push their currencies lower whenever possible. They have realised that in a deflationary world environment with floating exchange rates, a weak currency makes an economy stronger and gives a government political leverage throughout the world.

A strong currency, by contrast, is usually symptomatic of an excessive budget deficit and unsustainably high interest rates. An overvalued currency leads in the short run to recession and in the long run to de-industrialisation and declining trade.

Unfortunately for Europe, the German and French governments still think they are playing by the old gold standard and Bretton Woods rules, under which countries with strong currencies held the whip hand — and the consequences of their misunderstanding are visible in the European economy's parlous state.

To summarise, efforts to defend the pound against devaluation have usually proved futile, stupid and self-destructive. It should be no surprise then that Mr Justice Gresswell, the High Court judge handling legal actions against Lloyd's agents, has warned litigants there may be insufficient money to satisfy them, even though their claims may be found valid. Lawyers estimate the legal actions could cost £100 million. Last month, the same 17,000 names suing rejected a £900 million offer from Lloyd's if they gave up litigation. The offer provided no cap for alleged long tail liability for asbestos, health hazard and environmental claims. These continue to flow from the US, whose courts consider industry or insurers liable, not the public sector.

There is no US state health care scheme to provide for asbestos victims; nor grants to help the cost of cleaning sites where pollutants were dumped. The cost falls heaviest on asbestos firms and their insurers. Such claims were never thought of when the policies were issued, or the premiums would have been too high. If Lloyd's do not pay the claims they forfeit the American trust fund, and US insurance business on which they depend. Lloyd's names are having to carry this burden of unlimited and unquantifiable liability for the rest of their lives, and that of their estate.

Those of us in long tail action groups want our cases litigated as quickly as possible, not so much for monetary recompense, but to relieve ourselves and our families from liability before we die — £100 million costs for 17,000 names is about £6,000 each. A small price for such relief! Yours faithfully, JOHN D. BURROWS, Copthall, Church Lane, Bury, West Sussex.

Diplomatic 007
IF Jim Liddell, Our Man in Perth, can't beat up UK trade with Australia, then nobody can. The British Consul (Commercial) sports diplomatic car licence plates with the number 007.

Goldfinger
SOME secrets of how and where the Bank of England stores its gold was disclosed by Terry Smeeton, chief manager, foreign exchange division, BoE, when he spoke to the Australian Gold Conference here

on Wednesday. Smeeton explained that the BoE has a very efficient vault system, and showed slides to illustrate the size of the vaults. He said: "As you can see, the vaults are very large indeed but are not built to a particularly great height" (slide 3). "The gold is for the most part stacked on pallets, but by no means up to the ceiling" (slide 4). For those of you who may have been to New York and seen the gold stored in the Fed's vaults, this is a great contrast as, in New York, ten bars are piled up on top of one another right to the ceiling. The difference is of course that the Fed in New York is built on rock, whereas the Bank of England is founded on London clay. There is therefore a limit to the weight our floors will bear." Smeeton, battling for Britain, did emphasise that gold bars in BoE vaults are easily accessible and can be moved around by fork-lift trucks. In New York, if access is required to a single bar at the bottom of a stack, then it is a major exercise.

COLIN CAMPBELL in Kalgoorlie

TEMPUS

Coal finger

GIVEN the success of its Nercio and Cordero Mining acquisitions last year, it is easy to see why RTZ is so keen to have more American coal mining assets. Together, the two turned in £36 million post-tax profits for an average of nine months last year, against a net investment of £320 million. That equates to an annual return of almost 15 per cent — a figure that will rise as RTZ boosts output and cuts costs.

The recent rise in the coal price means that such bargains will be less easy to find this year. But RTZ's preference for fossil fuel is understandable, given its unenthusiastic outlook for world metal prices. The group blazes the recent rise in prices on speculative activity rather than genuine industrial demand and thus expects the bubble to burst before long.

Although RTZ's organic growth in the current year may be uninspiring in such a

scenario, the longer outlook is more promising. RTZ has controlled its costs so tightly that it is now highly geared to an upturn in metal demand and price. Every 10 per cent rise in the copper price will add £57 million to earnings. Earnings could double by 1995, reducing the prospective p/e ratio to under 15.

Such gearing is all the more attractive when it is backed by RTZ's solid balance sheet. Gearing of 10 per cent gives the group a deep pocket for its coal acquisitions in spite of its heavy capital spending commitments.

Investors buying for recovery should not be misled by yesterday's 1p increase in the dividend (the first since 1991) into believing RTZ is also an income stock. The yield of less than 3 per cent is unlikely to rise sharply since the group will use an earnings recovery to rebuild a cover that has fallen to 1.7 times.

BAT Industries

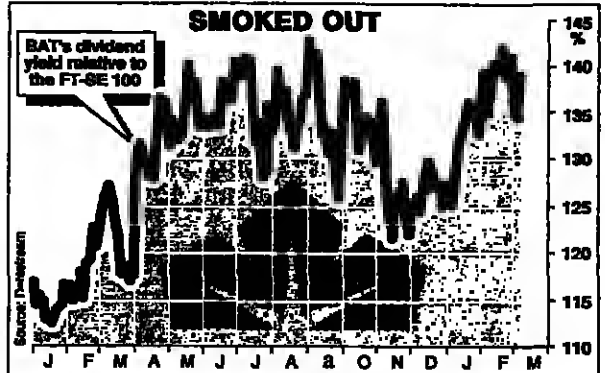
THE false rumour that BAT Industries was bidding for Groupe Violette gained credence because it sounded so plausible. BAT's interest in expanding its financial services business into continental Europe is well-known and, to a casual observer, Violette would make a comfortable fit.

What made the tale sound less convincing was the suggestion of a rights issue. BAT's shares look too low rated to make equity finance look attractive, while the institutions would not have been overjoyed at the launch of a large issue when equities are so jittery. With gearing down to 40 per cent, BAT's balance sheet is starting to look strong enough to fund a European purchase from its own resources. A £1 billion acquisition would only add

18 points to gearing. By scotching the Violette stories, BAT ensured that its figures would unfortunately be an anti-climax. The American tobacco war has proved more of a skirmish. Prices of branded cigarettes are recovering slowly and the discount brands have been little affected. There is plenty of headroom for profit growth

in financial services this year, as Eagle Star continues to reduce the burden of mortgage indemnity losses.

But the biggest attraction of BAT shares remains the dividend. There are very few other investments around that offer a 5.1 per cent yield. The market should appreciate such solidity long after the rumours have faded.



BICC

WHEN is a loan not a loan? Answer: when it is called a preference share. The Accounting Standards Board's ruling on convertible bonds has had the annoying consequence for BICC of increasing its balance sheet gearing from 13 per cent of shareholders' funds to 72 per cent.

BICC is not prepared to take that lying down and is to ask its shareholders for permission to change bonds into preference shares, which will allow BICC to continue to treat the instruments as permanent rather than loan capital.

According to BICC, the rights under the prefs will be the same as the bonds: if holders fail to convert by 2020, the company can exercise its right to place the shares that would have been allotted and use the proceeds to repay the investors. But the issue is not merely academic. Dressing up bonds as prefs has the unfortunate consequence for BICC of increasing the tax charge by £2.5 million because, unlike interest, dividends on shares are not tax-deductible. BICC

thinks that is a price worth paying in order to present a sound balance sheet to its customers in the cut-throat world of contracting. It is also convenient at a time when the balance sheet is being eroded by property write-downs. But this spot of financial cross-dressing will not prevent some investors from calling a redeemable instrument a loan and others may reckon the group's willingness to submit to higher taxes a bit much when the dividend is still uncovered.

Cadbury Schweppes

CADBURY'S has suffered a steady flow of criticism for jumping in and buying a minority stake in Dr Pepper. Indeed, the investment seems to serve no useful purpose to man or beast. Dr Pepper is not paying any dividends, while it trades its way out of debt and the group shows no signs of allowing any Cadbury representative to enter its boardroom. As such, the stake is merely a dilutive \$234 million dead weight on the balance sheet.

Considering the strength of

the rest of the business, Cadbury must feel it is entitled to its foibles. The 25 per cent growth in profits in spite of a 10 per cent rise in marketing spending and a £19 million reorganisation charge in the Spanish soft drinks business shows the group can prosper in spite of owning an under-performer or two. The 85 per cent rise in free cash flow shows it has the funds to buy them too.

Besides, the Dr Pepper stake is less useless than it first appears. Cadbury has already made a \$145 million book profit on the investment. More importantly, the stake entitles it to a seat at the table in any future reorganisation of the American soft drinks market, however hostile Dr Pepper may appear today.

The acquisition of A&W by contrast is already paying off. This together with further attention to margins in continental Europe should provide solid growth this year. At 494p, the shares are trading on less than 15 times current year earnings forecasts, which appears cheap enough for the group to be allowed to carry a little excess baggage.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Thirst for knowledge

I WOULD never have believed the Australian miner has gone soft, but in the dusty outback of Kalgoorlie, where they still know their gin and limes from their Foster's, they now hand out tickles rather than slaps when offended. An Old Etonian acquaintance of mine — dressed in his best dusty mining shorts in an effort to blend with the local scene — wanted to know from a local barman if life had changed since the first stubble (Australian for beer can) was served in the outback and, if so, how. My acquaintance asked: "Ten years ago, what would your reaction have been had I walked into this bar in a phd-stripped suit and ordered a gin and lime?" After apologetic spluttering, I think the reply was something like this. "Well, mate, ten years ago, we'd have thought you were a bloody (inaudible) ... dragged you from the bar, duffed you up, and kicked the parts that you normally sit on. In the old days, we might even

have killed you." My acquaintance enquired: "And now?" "Well, mate, we'd drag you out, but just give you a few good hard slaps around the face." My acquaintance, secretly dying for a gin and lime, boldly ordered a beer ... and turned to his crossword.

Floored

IT IS not so much fun flying 20 hours London-Perth any more. Qantas forbids smoking on its flights via Singapore, yet

temptingly displays the no smoking signs on takeoff and landing. And within seconds of lift-off, the purser announces, in a very serious voice: "Sleeping on the floor of the aircraft is not permitted at any time".

Time out

AUSTRALIANS, confused about the winter time change at the weekend, could hardly be blamed, having read the following item in the local



paper. Quote verbatim: "NSW, the ACT (Australian Capital Territory) and Victoria revert to Australian Eastern Standard Time at 2am tomorrow, when their clocks will go back one hour. Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth will then be half an hour behind Adelaide, half an hour ahead of Darwin, and two hours ahead of Perth. South Australia and Tasmania remain on daylight saving until March 20 and March 27 respectively."

Diplomatic 007

IF Jim Liddell, Our Man in Perth, can't beat up UK trade with Australia, then nobody can. The British Consul (Commercial) sports diplomatic car licence plates with the number 007.

Goldfinger

SOME secrets of how and where the Bank of England stores its gold was disclosed by Terry Smeeton, chief manager, foreign exchange division, BoE, when he spoke to the Australian Gold Conference here

Litigating names

From John D. Burrows
Sir, Last Saturday you reported that Mr Justice Gresswell, the High Court judge handling legal actions against Lloyd's agents, has warned litigants there may be insufficient money to satisfy them, even though their claims may be found valid. Lawyers estimate the legal actions could cost £100 million. Last month, the same 17,000 names suing rejected a £900 million offer from Lloyd's if they gave up litigation. The offer provided no cap for alleged long tail liability for asbestos, health hazard and environmental claims. These continue to flow from the US, whose courts consider industry or insurers liable, not the public sector.

There is no US state health care scheme to provide for asbestos victims; nor grants to help the cost of cleaning sites where pollutants were dumped. The cost falls heaviest on asbestos firms and their insurers. Such claims were never thought of when the policies were issued, or the premiums would have been too high. If Lloyd's do not pay the claims they forfeit the American trust fund, and US insurance business on which they depend. Lloyd's names are having to carry this burden of unlimited and unquantifiable liability for the rest of their lives, and that of their estate.

Those of us in long tail action groups want our cases litigated as quickly as possible, not so much for monetary recompense, but to relieve ourselves and our families from liability before we die — £100 million costs for 17,000 names is about £6,000 each. A small price for such relief! Yours faithfully, JOHN D. BURROWS, Copthall, Church Lane, Bury, West Sussex.

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Bank backs plans to give gold bigger role

FROM COLIN CAMPBELL IN KALGOORLIE

THE Bank of England yesterday announced plans for gold to play a greater role in the world's monetary system are well advanced.

Terry Smeeton, the Bank of England's chief manager, foreign exchange division, caused a stir of excitement at a gold conference in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, by announcing that plans are well advanced in London to launch Euro certificates against the security of a central bank's gold holding. The Bank of England is obviously part of such discussions, though Mr Smeeton declined to be drawn further. He told an international audience of analysts, fund and investment managers, and bullion dealers, that if all went well, then the new Euro gold-backed certificate could be launched some time later this year.

With a life of three to five years, the pricing linked to the price of gold and an active secondary market, the securities would be aimed at investors wishing to obtain exposure to gold, while for some central banks they would improve the liquidity of their holdings without needing to undertake sales.

Such involvement from central banks would have significance for the gold market and implications for the metal's price, Mr Smeeton said.

Following the sales in the past three years of gold holdings by the central banks of Belgium and The Netherlands, Mr Smeeton said if there were to be any further (unidentified) Western European central bank gold sales, then he believed there would be a ready market for

such gold among the newly wealthy nations of Asia.

Plans, by the turn of the century, for the introduction of a single currency in Western Europe and for the creation of a European Central Bank had implications for the gold holdings of European central banks. The European Central Bank, which has yet to be established, would be empowered to acquire and sell all types of precious metals, he said.

Gold is still an emotive issue in many countries, and as the foreign exchange holdings of central banks would need to be centralised in the new European Bank, Mr Smeeton said. "I can see many national Central Banks are likely to wish to retain at least part of their holdings of gold." While there might be further official sales from Western Europe in the years ahead, any gold sales were unlikely to be carried out in a way that would disrupt the market.

As for Latin American and non-industrialised countries, it was possible that they would seek to increase their official exposure to gold as a sort of insurance policy. Mr Smeeton made a subtle sales pitch that central banks and large private holders of gold should give greater thought to depositing their gold with the Bank of England. The Bank had a long-established history of gold storage, ensured fast and secure transfer of ownership, and had good delivery standards. He said the Bank's safe-custody facilities had contributed to London winning back its former pre-eminent role as the world's major gold market.



Sir Derek Birkin, chairman, left, and Robert Wilson do not want to become involved in the UK coal industry yet

RTZ seeking to buy more US coal mines

BY NEIL BENNETT

RTZ, the world's leading mining group, is searching for more coal mines to buy in America and the rest of the world but remains non-committal about the privatisation of British Coal.

Robert Wilson, RTZ's chief executive, said he is negotiating with several US companies to buy their coal mines but talks are at an early stage. Apart from America, RTZ is seeking low-cost international mines that could supply the growing number of Southeast Asian power stations. RTZ cut borrowings by almost two-thirds to £384 million last year and could spend more than £1 billion on acquisitions without stretching its balance sheet.

The group's interest in coal follows its successful acquisitions of Nerro and Cordera Mining last year with their mines in the Powder River

Basin in Montana and Wyoming. The acquisitions produced a profit of £36 million for RTZ last year, and the group is cutting their costs and increasing output.

In spite of its growing involvement in the coal market, it does not yet want to move into the UK coal industry. Sir Derek Birkin, chairman, said: "We are watching events in British Coal's privatisation, but we are not active."

The contribution from the Powder River Mines helped to support RTZ's profits in 1993 when they would otherwise have been hit by the fall in metal prices. Group profit before tax and exceptional rose 6 per cent to £652 million, but it was hit by exceptional losses of £217 million, most of which came from the sale of Pillar, the consumer products

arm. Underlying post-tax earnings rose 10 per cent to £373 million.

The fall in metal and coal prices during the year cut post-tax earnings by £122 million, but this was offset by a currency gain of £103 million from the weakness of sterling against the dollar. RTZ also made up for the 15 per cent fall in non-ferrous metal prices by raising copper, aluminium and gold production.

RTZ is raising its dividend for the year by 1p to 20.5p, but Sir Derek warned shareholders that they should not interpret this as a good omen for 1994, but as a reflection of the company's potential once the world's economy recovers. "We do not think 1994 will be very dramatic," he said. The group expects metal prices to stay volatile this year but show little overall change.

The group is planning to double its capital spending in the current year to about £520 million. Much of this is being invested in the new smelter at Bingham Canyon which should make it the world's lowest-cost copper mine.

Tempus, page 29

Continent holds back T&N

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN

T&N, the engineering and car parts group, told a familiar corporate tale of US and UK recovery offset by continental gloom, as it unveiled a 1993 profits advance.

The group forecast a further decline in European vehicle production, with recovery probably stalled until 1995, but said the prospects for growth in the US and UK economies were encouraging.

Colin Hope, T&N's chairman and chief executive, said cost-cutting was under way in Germany, France and Italy to meet the lower demand.

In 1993, pre-tax profits advanced 12 per cent to £70.3 million, from £63 million last year, as the axe fell on 3,300 jobs group-wide.

Earnings rose to 8.8p a share from 5.8p, and the total dividend is unchanged at 10.8p.

T&N's North American arm was a star performer, with trading profits leaping 70 per cent to £35 million.

Elsewhere, Mr Hope added, regional trading profits largely marked time, except for a deterioration in Italy because of low demand and prices.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Transport Development hit by margin pressure

TRANSPORT Development, the haulage and distribution company, blamed continued pressure on margins and a 50 per cent drop in continental European earnings for a fall in pre-tax profits to £26.9 million (£33.5 million) in 1993. Operating profit dipped to £39.1 million (£40.5 million). Total turnover, affected by discontinued operations, declined to £550 million (£599 million). Transport Development is now focused on Europe, after the sale of its US and Australian businesses.

The total dividend is maintained at 9.5p, with a final of 6.5p. Earnings fell to 9.63p (12.05p) a share. Gearing fell to 8 per cent (8.6 per cent) and will be eliminated by the proceeds of the Australian disposal. Martin Hlowarch, chairman, said UK profits had grown by about 10 per cent and were "improving quickly". There were continuing difficulties in France, where operating losses deepened to £3.74 million (£2.1 million loss). The shares lost 22p to 287p.

Waste Recycling to float

WASTE Recycling, which runs 1,750 bottle banks in East Anglia, is to be floated on the stock market. The rubbish disposal and environmental services firm also operates eight sites for local authorities in the region. Paul Rackham, founding shareholder and managing director, will sell all but a 38.3 per cent stake. Dealings begin on March 17 after a placing at 50p by Marshall Securities that will give Waste Recycling a value of £8.1 million. About £1.1 million from the proceeds is being used to repay debts. In its last financial year, the Thetford firm made profits of £1 million.

Microvitec back in black

MICROVITEC, the Bradford micro-electronic equipment and software group, returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £1.61 million in 1993, compared with a loss of £2.14 million in 1992. Turnover on continuing operations rose 10 per cent to £33.3 million. James Bailey, chairman, said the group had made a promising start to 1994. Year-end gearing was reduced to 48 per cent (57 per cent), reflecting last year's sale of the distribution businesses. Earnings amounted to 2.1p a share, against a loss of 3.4p a share last time. There is no dividend.

Go-ahead for TI venture

TI GROUP, which reports full-year figures today, has received clearance for the formation of the Messier-Dowty aircraft landing gear joint venture signed in December by TI and Snecma, the French aerospace business. It will be established through a holding company, Messier-Dowty International, to be 50 per cent owned by each company. The business will comprise TI's landing gear businesses, excluding repair and overhaul operations, based in the UK and Canada, and those of Snecma, also excluding repair and overhaul, which are based in France.

Holliday advances

HOLLIDAY Chemicals, which went public last April, increased 1993 pre-tax profits, adjusted for the effects of the flotation, by 6 per cent, to £13.1 million (£12.4 million). Actual reported profits rose from £7.6 million to £12.1 million. Michael Pegram, chairman, said it was a strong performance, given the economic climate. He announced a final dividend of 2.4p, making a maiden total of 4p. Pre-tax earnings per share advanced to 11.7p (11.2p). The shares added 5p, to 214p, compared with the 1993 flotation price.

BICC 1993 results

"We have continued to build on our two core businesses and to improve their competitiveness by aggressive management of the cost base, acquisition and the continuous development of new products and services."

We now have two very strong and competitive businesses which are in excellent positions to benefit from improving market conditions."

Sir Robin Biggs, Chairman

Key Performance Indicators		
Operating Profit	£227m	£200m
Pre-tax Profit	£227m	£200m
Dividend	10.8p	10.8p
Share Price	35.4p	22.5p
Dividend Yield	30.2%	48.0%
1993 is a record year for BICC Group		

BICCGroup

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AD 4152

BICC dips into its reserves to maintain payout

By CARL MORTIMER

BICC, the cables, construction and property conglomerate, has written down its development land holdings by £37 million. The writedown includes the 12-acre Spitalfields site in the City of London.

The group maintained its operating profits at £135 million in 1993, thanks to better results from Balfour Beatty, the contractor, but BICC is again dipping into reserves, to keep the dividend at 19.25p. Pre-tax profits rose £41 million, to £104 million. They had been depressed in 1992 by £39 million of provisions against property development and the Channel tunnel.

Sir Robin Biggam, BICC's chairman, predicted that recovery in the group's major markets would be modest this year. "We expect to see some improvements in the Australian, North American and UK

markets in 1994; continental European markets will remain difficult."

A change in accounting policy on capitalised interest forced BICC to write off rolled up interest on undeveloped sites. BICC Developments made losses of £15 million, mainly relating to interest costs, but the company has also written off £37 million of capitalised interest as a prior year adjustment to the December 1992 balance sheet.

The writedown mainly affected the Spitalfields development, in which BICC has a one-third interest, alongside Costain, the builder and LET, the developer. Spitalfields has

been written down to £45 million.

BICC is asking its shareholders for permission to exchange its convertible capital bonds into convertible preference shares. Sir Robin said the terms and conditions were the same but the Accounting Standards Board had ruled that the bonds should be treated as debt. That would increase BICC's net borrowings from £68 million to £245 million, compared with shareholders' funds of £341 million.

Work on the Pergau Dam project, where Balfour Beatty has a half share of the £400 million contract, and on the Kuala Lumpur airport project, was unaffected by the current controversy, Sir Robin said. "The future is uncertain, but we are hoping for the best," he added.

Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering has won the £60 million main contract to construct the underground stations and tunnels for the Heathrow Express, a joint venture between BAA and British Rail.

Tempus, page 29



Torquill Norman, Bluebird's chairman, is looking forward to another excellent year

Bluebird Toys soars overseas

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A SURGE in overseas sales and benefits from reorganisation helped Bluebird Toys to report a rise in pre-tax profits to £9.82 million in the year to December 31, up from £1.55 million in the previous 12 months.

The company, which assembles and distributes toys such as the Polly Pocket doll range and the Big Red Fun Bus, is proposing a substan-

tially increased single final dividend of 16p (4.5p). The USM-quoted shares responded with a 102p jump to 845p.

Torquill Norman, the chairman, said: "We have a very strong range for 1994 and we look forward to another excellent year."

Turnover advanced 50 per cent to £68.9 million (£46 million), with overseas sales

ahead 142 per cent to £39 million (£16 million).

Basic earnings leapt 460 per cent to 94.7p (16.9p) a share, while fully diluted earnings rose to 65.2p (15.4p) a share.

The company proposes a four-for-one share split to improve marketability and will also consider the introduction of interim dividend payments this year.

Wetherspoon seeking £22m for expansion

JD WETHERSPOON, the owner and operator of public houses floated in 1992, is calling for more funds to finance expansion beyond London. The company is seeking £22.1 million via a rights issue of one new share for every four held at 315p each, underwritten by Kleinwort Benson. The shares, originally offered at 160p, rose 7p to 390p. Wetherspoon, with debts of £31.4 million and gearing of 68 per cent, says the money will be used to fund the conversion of 14 sites with planning permission into pubs, including sites in Soho, Romford, Reading and Birmingham. At least ten are expected to open before the end of this financial year, giving Wetherspoon a total of 87 outlets.

Tim Martin, the founding chairman, and his wife will subscribe for just 76,333 new shares out of a full entitlement of 1.6 million, leaving them with 18 per cent of the enlarged company, against 22 per cent at present. Wetherspoon also reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £2.6 million (£1.49 million) in the half-year to January 31. Earnings, fully diluted, were 8.5p a share (5.9p). The dividend rises to 2.2p a share (1.8p).

Harrington ahead

STRONG growth in its international operations and contract publishing business helped lift pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £2.42 million from £1.86 million at Harrington Kilbride, the specialist magazine publisher, in the year to December 31. A final dividend of 3.2p brings the total for the year to 4.9p against 4.5p last time, an increase of 9 per cent. Kevin Harrington, managing director, said 1993 had been a year of significant progress for the company against a backdrop of continuing difficult trading conditions in the publishing market. He said the contract publishing business made significant progress, doubling the number of titles to about 20.

Metal Bulletin shines

METAL Bulletin, the specialist publisher in which Emap has a 19 per cent shareholding, lifted profits 36 per cent last year and says the momentum has been sustained in the current year. In 1993, pre-tax profits rose to £2.53 million from £1.86 million. The final dividend rises to 7.1p a share from 5.3p, making 10p for the year, against 8p. Earnings rose to 17.2p a share from 13.2p. Turnover rose to £15.3 million from £12.7 million, and trading profits to £2.2 million from £1.5 million. The company is planning a record number of conferences and exhibitions this year and the launch of a newsletter on metals finance.

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CHARLES BARKER

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Portals plans £19m banknote plant

By MARTIN BARROW
CITY NEWS EDITOR

PORTALS Group, the papermaking group, is to invest £19 million in a new plant in Britain to increase capacity for banknote production. The new 4,000 tonne machine will be built alongside existing facilities at Overton Mill, Hampshire, which worked flat out in the second half of last year to satisfy demand, and will come on stream at the beginning of 1996. Shares in Portals rose 30p to 609p

yesterday after the company announced better than expected financial results for last year, with profits rising to £31 million before tax from £25.5 million in 1992, when the company absorbed a £2.8 million loss on disposals.

Profits were helped by an 11 per cent rise in group sales from continuing operations to £197.9 million, yielding an 8 per cent rise in operating profits to £30.8 million. Security and specialist papermaking, which includes banknotes, lifted operating profits to £22.2 million from

£20.1 million, while the smaller protection and control division rose to £8.6 million from £8.4 million.

Capital expenditure totalled £12.3 million, slightly down from £14.5 million, including £1.8 million for the purchase of Portals Packaging Tapes. Net cash was £16 million, against borrowings of £2.75 million.

Earnings were 34.55p a share, up from 27.08p. The total dividend is increased to 16p a share, from 14.5p, with a 10.75p final.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Long way from the little hut

By Douglas McRae

AT one time, the works and cost accountant would spend his days on the shop floor, often in a little hut in the corner of the factory yard. He sat there surrounded by invoices, delivery notes and other bits of paper, keeping track of raw materials, finished products, payments and shipments, as well as looking after production costs.

In the front office, there was a grand figure in a dark suit. He was the financial accountant, who dealt with the auditors and reported to the board. The two men rarely, if ever, met and probably had no understanding of each other's terminology.

Modern management accountants do not spend too much time looking backwards. But, as the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) celebrated its 75th birthday on Tuesday, it is worth remembering that the man in the little hut was the pioneer of the 20th century management accounting revolution which gave birth to CIMA.

The institute now has more than 36,000 management accountants, members and we claim to provide the most relevant training of any professional body for business management within the workplace. Simply, we are training a special breed of business managers — management ac-

countants who are well equipped to make things happen in industry and commerce.

In the old industrial hierarchy, the recognised accountancy skills were usually confined to the narrow role of the annual audit and control of compliance matters. But as early as 1919 — the year CIMA was formed — some industrial enterprises found they were making use of accountancy skills as a true management tool.

In a new business climate crying out for management skills, the young management accountancy movement was in the right place at the right time, and healthy foundations for CIMA were laid. In the past ten years, CIMA's membership has risen 60 per cent and there are 58,000 students working for CIMA examinations. The institute has broken its own recruiting records in the past year, with more than 2,000 new members.

An independent observer, writing recently of job opportunities for accountants, commented: "The greatest demand today, however, is for newly-qualified CIMA... Many employers opt for the all-round business management training gained in industry, rather than the more specific financial training obtained in public practice."

But older CIMA hands like



Douglas McRae: "CIMA members are in a special position"

myself really knew we had "arrived" when companies recruiting for senior management positions began asking for "shirt-sleeved" accountants. The days of the little hut have long gone.

CIMA members are valued because they are seen as both professionals and active members of the management team — people who take off their

jackets, roll up their sleeves, and get on with the job.

Modern management accountants have a mission to turn business strategy into profits. They know how to exploit the opportunities presented by developments in information technology. As the providers of management information within companies, CIMA management ac-

countants also act as the conduit through which the information for running the business flows to top management. Thus, they are in a special position which is central to strategic decision-making.

Stricter regulation of the accountancy profession within the European Union, and in many other countries, can be expected. It will heighten the contrast between compliance accounting (with all its statutory and regulatory aspects) and the management accountants' freedom to play an active and creative role in business.

CIMA has anticipated change by restructuring an already successful syllabus and building upon it.

From this year, its syllabus and examinations will centre even more around the need for CIMA accountants to be trained for a total management role, with emphasis upon information technology. If you want to travel, a CIMA qualification can be your passport. Management accountancy is truly international, providing the skills to work within the business environment of any nation. It is already doing much to help the economies of developing countries.

The author is president of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Justice for all, and all for justice

THE arguments raging over the reform of auditors' liability are not new. All that is new is the escalating costs of insurance, the size of claims and a greater perception of the sheer injustice of the current situation.

The problem is that the solution lies largely in the hands of the Department of Trade and Industry and there is no sign that it wishes to do anything about it. After all, it does not need the firms to submit the evidence and independent reports from insurers, which they have just sent in. It does not need the English ICA to submit a similar pile of arguments as it just has. The DTI has all the evidence it needs. The report it commissioned in 1988 recommends much the same action that both the submissions from the large firms and the Institute have advocated over recent weeks.

And if it needs any clarification over its own report, then it would be much easier to simply talk to the author. These days he is one of them. Andrew Likiernan, when he put the 1988 report together for the DTI, was a professor at the London Business School. These days, the DTI can find him at the Treasury, where he is head of the government accounting service. The only points he would probably add to his earlier efforts are that things have got worse and that, as ever, there is nothing like a crisis to put the moral arguments into starker relief.

The figures are straightforward. The independent report put together by Minet, the insurer which has access to all the top firms' figures, shows that the average of the three largest claims against UK accountants in 1983 was £38.9 million. By the time of the Likiernan report, that average had risen to £10.5 million. And for 1993, after stripping out the vast estimated claims expected over the BCCI affair, the figure is £487 million. At the same time, the report shows that for the period from June 1993 to June 1994 "the maximum amount of commercial insurance available to any Big Six firm in the UK comprises a band of cover for losses falling between \$45 million and \$105 million".

By any standards, things are progressively getting much worse. The problem is that it is not terribly obvious to outsiders. The firms have never, being partnerships, produced useful, accurate and comprehensive financial figures in the way that their clients do. So the public has nothing to go on. And the idea of secrecy that this creates is easily turned into a

theory of conspiracy. Equally, with hindsight, the firms should probably have contested rather than paid out on some of the earlier cases brought against them. But insurers were persuasive on payments in the early 1980s. Had the firms known that the insurers would desert them in the late 1980s, they might have stuck to their guns rather more.

It is also hard for the firms to convince people that they are not simply crying wolf. Ian Brindle, Price Waterhouse's senior partner, made that plain at the launch of the firm's submission to the DTI. "If we could produce a dead body we could convince people that there was a problem," he said. "But we would prefer to sort it out at the stage where people are not feeling too well."

And there is also the argument that justice, which in principle should be open to all, is not necessarily required when the aggrieved parties are partners in large and wealthy multinational businesses. The obvious answer would be to change the principle of joint and several liability so that at times of corporate collapse, for example, those directly responsible for the collapse would also be deemed financially responsible. This is the heart of the injustice. At present, the only people who have to have insurance are the auditors. The law encourages shareholders not to seek justice, but simply to seek cash.

In the US, this system is changing. Several states have moved to a system of proportional liability. The same is happening in Australia. It cannot happen soon enough. In the US the theory of "the innocent investor" is gaining ground. If shares go up, the investor takes the profit. If they fall, someone must be to blame. The investor doesn't take the losses, he sues.

The obvious answer in the UK would be to move to a system of proportional liability. But lawyers oppose this and argue it would take decades. The short answer is to change Section 310 of the Companies Act. Under a measure dating back to the 1920s, this bars accountants from agreeing individual liability limits with clients. It is not the ideal solution. Auditors would be seen to be doing deals with clients. It does not have the obvious justice of the liability falling on the guilty.

But the DTI needs to do something, and fast. As an interim measure it should walk down to Whitehall for a chat with Andrew Likiernan. And it should amend Section 310.



ROBERT BRUCE

Cold comfort for Ernst trio

DID they draw the short straw? Three managers from Ernst & Young's energy services group have "volunteered" to spend two years in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. Mary Whinnall, Jonathan Muir and Andy Brogan will work with oil and gas companies from a base in Alma Ata, emerging occasionally to travel 1,500 miles to Tengiz near the Caspian Sea, where the state's largest oil joint venture is situated. Con-

Smiling a retreat

ditions at Tengiz are reported to be inhospitable — winter temperatures of minus 40 degrees centigrade, and a bed in a cabin, which is available only when the last occupant has left it. Not all that different from Beckett House, the firm's London headquarters...

Cat's cradle

ONE of the most unlikely presentations at last week's Festival of Accounting in Edin-

burgh was on the use of string as a means of accounting in pre-conquest Peru. Appetites were whetted by the professor concerned creating a complex knot of cat's cradle across the backs of three chairs. But then he announced that the secret had died with the Incas and he did not have a clue about how it was supposed to work. Morale slumped even further when it became obvious that the presentation was set to drag on. Keeping the Scots

from their lunch increased their view that his efforts had been a load of old rope.

Smiling a retreat

THE ballroom of Hopetoun House, venue for the festival's closing dinner, was invaded by a pipe band intent on "beating the retreat". Among those surrounded by deafening skirling was Roger Lawson of 3i, incoming president of the English institute. Looking ill-

at ease, he turned to Professor Richard Macve and asked what he should do. "Just keep smiling," came the reply.

MIKE Hogan, a one time presenter of the BBC's The Financial World Tonight, has been appointed head of Price Waterhouse's UK press office. Hogan won a Baffa award for television business journalism while editing The Business Programme for Channel 4, and was most recently director of external affairs at The Advertising Association.

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TELEVISION page 36

Poignant, funny and disabled: Kerry Noble stars in last night's BBC drama, Skallagrigg

ARTS

THEATRE page 37

Benedict Nightingale offers his choice of playwrights from hell. Only joking...



CINEMA: Geoff Brown blows his nose and wipes his eyes after watching the calculatedly lachrymose *Joy Luck Club*

Welcome to the great wail of China

Hankies scarcely dry from *Shadowlands* last week now get another, bigger drenching from *The Joy Luck Club*. Since Wayne Wang's silky-smooth version of Amy Tan's best-selling novel concerns the anguished relationship between Asian-American mothers and daughters, you might suppose only women snuffle and dab. Not so. My own eyes have seen thick-skinned males, film critics even, turn on the taps in the final reels and drip quietly in the dark.

Newsweek magazine called the film "a four-hankie classic". Time went further still and gave it a rating of eight.

Any film that can render eight handkerchiefs soppy needs to be watched carefully. We have our health to think of. The healthiest kind of tears are those that trickle of their own accord, in their own good time. The worst are those yanked out by brute force.

Wang, the Hong Kong-born director, racking his first American mainstream film following a fitful career on the fringes, unfortunately follows the yanking method. Every image, every scene, every tender wisp of accompanying music, is transparently shaped for maximum emotional effect. Either you let down the barriers and succumb, or you sit story-faced as these Chinese mothers and Americanised daughters face more than two hours of slaps, hugs, joy and sorrow across the decades. There are no other options.

On a technical level, at least, *The Joy Luck Club* deserves a warm welcome. The script, by Ronald Bass and Tan herself, reworks the novel's teeming characters into a neat, interwoven bundle. From the opening chapter of the Joy Luck mahjong club in San Francisco, the stories spread out to China and back, lucidly tracing the storm-tossed histories of four Chinese women and their offspring.

There are tales of babies left behind in the wake of the Japanese advance; tales of enforced, loveless

marriages, of a mother (played by France Nuyen) who drowns her own child to gain revenge on a playboy husband.

Once the women reach America, their daughters echo their hopes and fears, although never the physical traumas: the current generation is noticeably well-heeled. The cast, picked from the large reservoir of Asian-American talent, tackle their parts with vigour and gratitude. Tsai Chin's bossy, disapproving Lindo, sold into marriage at 15, is particularly memorable.

As for Wang himself, a gifted, humane director, you would never guess from the film's rosy glow and velvet camerawork that his previous film was a jagged experiment called *Life Is Cheap*...

But *Toilet Paper Is Expensive*. Sharp edges have been filed away, while the acute observations on immigrant ways that ran through *Chan Is Missing* and *Dim Sum* have become obscured by the bubbles of soap opera.

If your eyes are not too watery, you should see *The Joy Luck Club* for what it is: a handsome film, a notable showcase for Asian-American talent, and a shallow emotional roller-coaster.

Even eight hankies may not be sufficient this week. For there is the glutinous *My Life* to consider.

Here, Michael Keaton dies of cancer shortly after his lovely wife (Nicole Kidman) gives birth to a bouncing boy. To prepare his future offspring for a life without dad, Keaton spends the last months making a video scrapbook. The camerader is trained on colleagues and family, who offer mixed testimony. In between, he gives his child-to-be tips on big things, little things: sex, love, cooking spaghetti, playing baseball.

Rarely can a film have gloated so much, to such dubious effect, over the demise of its star. Bruce Joel Rubin, the writer and director, has a genuine fascination with the afterlife and extra-sensory perceptions: he wrote the screenplays for *Ghost* and *Jacob's Ladder*. But in

My Life, his directorial debut, Rubin's obsessions have only produced a string of mawkish effects pinned to a central character it is hard to embrace.

Keaton's Bob Jones, head of his own PR company in Los Angeles, has money, of course. Terminal diseases in American movies generally strike the rich and famous. True, he comes from Ukrainian stock, but an ethnic wedding and prickly encounters with the parents in Detroit still leave him stranded, cold and arrogant. Keaton's skill in handling serious drama is not at issue, although the smug, cocky part of his persona certainly makes difficulties for the viewer.

Kidman is the picture of beauty

and loving kindness as the wife trying to share his pain. Other characters play second fiddle to what often seems like a huge ego trip for the dying man. *My Life* should still not be dismissed out of hand: Rubin earns points for avoiding rapid escapism and for giving audiences something to chew on. The trouble is, the film tastes so noticeably artificial that you just want to spit it out.

With *On Deadly Ground* you can at least enjoy peals of mocking laughter. Steven Seagal, the martial arts hunk with modest acting ability and the blurred face of a burglar wearing a stocking mask, has now turned director. He has also turned environmentalist. As

Seagal's Forrest Taft, mighty douser of oil-rig fires, heaves into action against big business, out come the little homilies, the plugs for justice and Mother Earth. "What does it take to change the essence of a man?" he intones after reducing a redneck to a bloody heap. "I need time," the heap blubs.

Seagal's stomping ground is beautiful, frozen Alaska, where the Inuit people fight to avoid the clutches of oil company boss Michael Caine. "I didn't want to resort to violence," Taft explains. "I don't have a choice." That said, he is free to dispatch every bad guy he meets to an early grave.

Dressed in fanciful furs, Seagal looks every inch the star with a



Across the generations, across the seas, Chinese mothers and their Americanised daughters get together to share a few gentle smiles and a lot of tears in *The Joy Luck Club*

swollen head. Others caught in this absurd enterprise rightly wish they were elsewhere. Caine, hair black and short, suggests a man embalmied, while Joan Chen receives her most thankless role yet as a beautiful Inuit activist.

The alternative choice this week is *Pétain*: two hours plus about Vichy France, staged in the worthy, bloodless manner of a television biopic. Since the years of collaboration with Nazi Germany can still cause tremors in France, Jean Marboeuf's film clearly retains local appeal. But abroad, dwindling numbers of filmgoers know or care about Marshal Pétain, Pierre Laval and the other figures who collaborated with Hitler and

tried to rejuvenate defeated France with anti-Semitic policies from their new seat of government, a spa town hotel. Large queues should not be expected.

Yet, for those happy to take history lessons in cinemas, *Pétain* can still entertain, despite Marboeuf's plodding style. The characters fascinate. Veteran actor Jacques Dufilho, stiff and formal, crisply conveys ancient Pétain's williness, vanity and naivety. Jean YVES makes Laval a formidable force of nature, an ambitious politician outmanoeuvred by events. *Pétain* may not make you cry, thank heavens, but you can have a good time learning, thinking.

now directing the play for the main stage at New York's Manhattan Theatre Club.

A new cartel, the Producers Alliance, wants to redress the situation by transplanting successful shows from the subsidised sector to some of the smaller West End houses, with cheaper tickets to boot. This initiative is pre-empted by a new production of Samuel Beckett's 20-minute *Footfalls* — a fringe favourite if ever there was one — which opens on Monday at the Garrick Theatre, runs for a week, and will cost just £4 for any seat in the house. The show has "event" written all over it, not least because it reunites director Deborah Warner and actress Fiona Shaw.

"The quirkiness of the fact that it's in a West End theatre amuses me," Warner says. "It's a play that has had many lives in pub theatres. But the lines are becoming rather blurred. I'm very excited about the West End because it's only just occurred to me that it's very flexible."

Small is beautiful

THEATRE: Andy Lavender applauds the spirit of enterprise breathing new life into the London fringe

The West End's most impactful plays of the past two or three years — such as *Medea*, *Moonlight*, *Oleanna* and *Death and the Maiden* — all started life in the subsidised sector. That area of activity known as "off-West End", comprising the subsidised "quality" venues such as the Royal Court, Almeida and Hampstead theatres, seems in rude health. But while these theatres have been climbing the barriers that separate them from the smart West End, a similar flexing of muscles is happening on the fringe.

The most striking evidence of this is provided by developments in a little-known venue south of the River Thames. The Bridge Lane Theatre has been hired for two productions by Moving Theatre, a new company formed by Vanessa Redgrave and her brother Corin. The first of these, Alex Ferguson's *The Flag*, opens tonight.

What persuaded the Redgraves to opt for an obscure fringe theatre in Battersea? "The theatre is remarkable in what it provides," Corin Redgrave says.

"It has a large performance area, yet it never separates the audience from the performers by more than about 25 feet. So you can do a play with a cast of 16 people, as we're doing, but it allows for a real closeness."

It is not unknown for stars

"The lesson of the 1980s was that profits don't just come in cash"

to appear in this neck of the woods. Janet Suzman has directed a Feydeau farce at the Chelsea Centre Theatre, and is currently in discussion with the theatre's management about another project.

General figures for audience attendance outside the West End do not properly exist, such is the volatile nature of the theatre industry. The Arts Council's most recent statistics reveal a slight decrease in audience attendance

at the London theatres the council funds. On the other hand, the Bush Theatre, on Shepherd's Bush Green, reports an increase of 21 per cent in audience attendance over the past two years, and the Cockpit Theatre in Marylebone claims an increase in box office income of more than 50 per cent since 1990.

The Hampstead Theatre took £33,000 at the box office for Terry Johnson's *Dead Funny* before it had even opened. The play will become the theatre's latest West End transfer when it opens at the Vaudeville in April.

Of course, artistic panache cannot entirely be measured by burns on seats. For all that economic imperatives have been dimmed into management over the past few years, there is every indication that theatres outside the West End are still unafraid of taking risks. At the Cockpit Theatre, for example, the Soho Theatre Company flirts with a kind of danger. Its latest offering is Daniel Mague's *Paddywack*, a dark comedy about an Irishman in Kilburn, written by a former member of Sinn Féin who was frequently interned



Corin and Vanessa Redgrave specially chose an obscure fringe theatre to stage Alex Ferguson's *The Flag*

during the 1970s. *Paddywack* is a co-production between the company and William Butler Sloos, one of a new breed of producers.

"The lesson of the 1980s was that profits don't just come in cash," Butler Sloos says. "I get to put on shows that I believe in. On the other hand, theatre is an entirely pragmatic business. You're in the business of communicating ideas and emotions. If nobody comes you've failed at the first hurdle."

The second hurdle can also be tricky. Butler Sloos produced *Our Boys*, an earlier Cockpit success. "That show cost me £22,000," he says. "People have told me that 15 years ago it would have moved into the West End. But to have moved it today would have cost me about £180,000."

Abigail Morris, Soho The-

atre Company's artistic director, had a similar experience with Diane Samuel's acclaimed *Kindertransport*. An initial possibility that the production would transfer to the Duchess Theatre came to nothing, although Morris is

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

POP ON FRIDAY: Caitlin Moran on the magical musical talent of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain, and the ill-advised lifestyle that brought him close to death last week. Plus reviews of the new albums

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Their shows must not go on

IN THEATRE



BARTLEY, Hartley (1860-1963), born Reg Hedge in Peckham, was a "drawing-room dramatist" noted for his stylish portraits of a suave aristocracy, cheerful if mentally limited retainers, and comic foreigners. Though eventually overshadowed by Lonsdale (q.v.) and Coward (q.v.), he enjoyed a modest success with *Mayfair Madge* (1911), *Buck House Bertie* (1927) and *Belgravia Buffs* (1948). Despite an acclaimed performance by Dame Celia Mauve as a lively divorcee whose answer to the servant problem is to hire her friends to newsworthy Americans, *Dukes*, *Earls*, *Marquesses*, *Baronets* and *Butlers* (1957), did not impress the post-Osborne generation.

GRUDGE, Cliff (1950-), born Gerald Thistle-Twysell in Gloucestershire, was educated at Eton and Gresham Polytechnic, where he formed the theatre group Class Warfare. Among the plays this brought to working men's clubs and other informal venues were *Them Versus Us* (1970), *Us Versus Them* (1972), and *Hell*

Heath (1973), later updated as *Hell Callaghan* (1978), *Hell Thatcher* (1982) and *Hell Major* (1993). Though Grudge has been criticised for didacticism, he has also been praised for an uncompromising integrity, as well as for a blunt humour evident in *King Arthur* and *Maggie Le Fay* (1984), his account of the Miners' Strike, and *Pus* (1989), a satire on modern Conservatism.

STONE, A. Mason (1880-1949), educated at Westminster School, was one of several playwrights dealing with historical themes in the 1920s and 1930s. *The Other Hereward* (1922), *Harthacnut*, *Son of Canute* (1926), *The Grey Prince* (1930) and *Blonde's Half-Brother* (1933) all embody the belief that, in his words, "quite great events are best glimpsed through the eyes of the not quite great". *Slow Tread* (1925 onwards), his 100-play cycle about the Hundred Years War, still awaits its first production.

GOBSMACK, Jim (1945-), educated at Bootle Secondary Modern, is the author of a

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE is the man to blame if there are significant playwrights missing from the revised *Oxford Guide to 20th-Century Literature in English*, to be published next year. He recently finished penning 175 entries on dramatists and plays of importance. But he is still worried by the borderline cases that have materialised in his worst fantasies. What, he asks, will posterity say about the exclusion of this motley crew?

series of north-country comedies notable for their extravagant characterisation, ebullient humour and sympathy for ordinary folk. *Chorling in Chorley* (1982) was followed by his greatest success to date, *Bonkers in Bootle* (1986), about a couple who startle the conventional by starting a dildo emporium in a small northern town. With *Is Bobby Charlton in Benidorm?* (1990), which follows the fortunes of a group of beer-loving football referees holidaying in Spain, he was, however, agreed to have ventured beyond his range.

SORRY, Ariana (1875-1907), born in Stone-on-the-Wold and educated by governesses, wrote a series of socially-

conscious plays indebted to Shaw and Galsworthy: *Blame* (1904), *Shame* (1905) and *Pain* (1906). She was engaged on the unfinished *Hurt*, "about the anguish of being an Edwardian", before dying of blood-poisoning caused by the rusty chains with which she had shackled herself to the railings outside the Home Office.

STREAKOFF, Dave (1940-), born in Stepney and self-educated, founded the touring Armpit Theatre in 1965 but is best known for a series of one-man plays, performed by himself and notable for their anarchic humour, raucous language and physical inventiveness. These include *Shag* (1970), *Slack* (1972), *Go* (1974), *Smooch* (1987) and *Prat*

(1990). His three-hour adaptation of Beckett's (q.v.) one-minute play *Breath*, retitled *Puke*, enjoyed a brief run at the National.

FLYE, Deirdre (1908-88), born in Suffolk, was one of the lesser luminaries in the campaign, spearheaded by Elliot (q.v.) and Fry (q.v.), to restore poetry to English drama. Her plays, which include *Stuttering Hearts* (1946), *Make Moan* (1948), *Nightjars in Purgatory* (1951) and *Ah, Conduits!* (1953), lack the dramatic energy of the Jacobean playwrights, but have won admirers for the sensitivity with which they chronicle, usually in terza rima, what Fye called "the small, significant throbs in the wayward pulse that

lurks half-heard in the hidden lanes of England".

NUTTER, Norton (1929-), born and educated in Chipping Norton, enjoyed a vogue as a practitioner of "absurdism", a genre associated with Ionesco (q.v.) and, in England, N.F. Simpson (q.v.). *Snorkling for Mice* (1958) was followed by the slightly more successful *Just One Thong After An Udder* (1959), a whimsical satire whose targets include corporal punishment, the Milk Marketing Board and the meaningless of life.

FERRET, Kevin (1930-), was born and educated in Edmonton: the same "dank British torture-chamber" where he was to set his play *Paved* (1966). Containing a scene in which a landlord sucks out the brains of tenants with a straw, it set the tone for subsequent plays, among them *Perret's Tempest* (1970), a reworking of the Shakespeare play in which a colonial governor is graphically murdered during the "Caliban uprising", and *Prejudice and Pride* (1974), in which Jane Austen, having

belatedly recognised her part in the oppression of the peasantry, commits suicide with a hatpin. Though his radical socialism has not won universal sympathy in recent years, Ferret has remained unwavering in his views, producing a series of short plays in which Stalin, Pol Pot and others are seen arraigning a cruel British Establishment.

MACE, Doreen (1970-), born in Birkenhead and educated at the Womyn's Workshop in Liverpool, is best known for her work with the avant-garde theatre group, The Curse. Her plays, mostly improvised with this company, include *Sock 'em Sappho* (1991), in which a Merseyside witches coven reactively abolishes the male of the species and, with it, "western history and uncivilisation"; and *Loe Lib* (1993), in which the heroine, a tampon-machine filler, converts Britain's female population to radical lesbianism by scrawling graffiti in public lavatories. Mace has also written for such television shows as *Miss Marple* and *Bob Monkhouse's Happy Hour*.

DANCE

Gin and bare it

Laid Out Lovely
The Place

Emilyn Claid comes on as one of ballet's less magical personalities, hobbling into rehearsal on damaged feet, lag permanently on the go. A glass of gin in hand, she is destined for an early grave. She fits in perfectly with Claid's new show, *Laid Out Lovely*, as well as being a delicious spoof of the ballerina "with temperament".

The roles she dances illustrate ballet's obsession with tragic heroines who expire decorously — after sapping their strength with intricate displays of virtuosity. Actually, *Laid Out Lovely* could qualify as typical Royal Ballet material, with love, death and fantasy as its prime ingredients. But the way these are mixed together and leavened with comedy make it all a sight more original.

Symbols abound: fragmentary situations lurch from cosy normality to grisly incongruity, from sex to death in all possible permutations. Claid, in another persona as voracious conqueror, drags a coffin behind her: this is the unshakable reality that follows us. She and Russell Trigg perform a dionysian dance of simulated copulation on and around the coffin, stripping themselves naked before disappearing under the lid. They are both evangelists of sex and angels of death.

The show has "a rotting romance" as its subtitle; and romance appears as quite a contrast. As Claid and Trigg indulge in their raw writhings, Brenton Surgenor, on bended knee clasping a bouquet of roses, sings a duet with Olwen May. But even here decay and death insinuate themselves. "Darling," they trill, "I will love you more than ever when the ivy grows beneath your fingernails."

Gruesome horror shifts to black comedy at split-second speed. *Laid Out Lovely* owes its success to the canniness of Claid and director Nigel Charnock, and to the other performers, who dance and sing with equal skill. Hugh Nankivell arranged and plays the music wonderfully.

NADINE MEISNER

THE TIMES



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THEATRE: Thebes comes to the Young Vic

Myth-guided tour of ancient Greece

"THERE are hardly any visible remains sufficiently important to excite the interest or awaken the enthusiasm of the visitor," says the *Blue Guide*. "An undistinguished town," agrees *Michelin* in its cool French way.

But the Thebes to be found in modern Boeotia towers with distinction and swirls with excitement beside the grim, abstract city that Tim Supple and his designer, Ashley Martin-Davies, have created for BMP DDB Needham.

What, I wonder, would a *Michelin* inspector make of their Thebes? "Those wishing to escape the Greek sun may appreciate a city where — apart from the odd dangling night-light or slanting moonbeam — the air is permanently dark. Those glummed with sight-seeing may at first be grateful there is nothing to distract the eye except for the big black microphones at which the black-clothed inhabitants stand when they are not indulging in their main activity: which is walking very slowly across the black ground and talking through the tiny black microphones that protrude from the steel bands looped over their heads. However, the tourists most likely to find lasting enjoyment in Thebes are witches, vampires, werewolves, owls and bats."

Actually, the effect is rather of a convocation of television floor-managers who, for reasons unknown, are in deep mourning. There are four of them in all, three men in black jackets or jumpers or both, and one woman in a black trouser suit with matching blouse. They shift from char-

acter to character as they act out truncated *Oedipus Rex* and then move briefly on to Aeschylus's *Seven Against Thebes* and Sophocles's *Antigone* before spouting Oedipus's dithering through their milks: "Count none of us happy until the day we die."

To call the result bleak is as gratuitous as to call Siberia cold; but it does have an austere integrity all its own. Kenneth McLeish's script is too grimly vivid, his love of

Sophocles and Aeschylus too evident, for him to merit the obvious slur, which is of serving up canned classics or pot-pourri myths.

Again, Supple may be right to argue, as he does in the programme, that it is difficult to create a feeling of "poetic intensity" with theses in archaic costumes prancing around Doric columns uttering walls of "eleleu" and "otototot".

But has he found a good alternative for his four performers — Conrad Nelson, Josie Ayers, Colin R. Campbell, Paul M. Meston? They talk as feverishly as fighter pilots on collision course in the sky, yet move through the muck like divers lolling along on the sea-bed. Take or leave the very occasional striking effect — Oedipus caged in thin bars of light — and the audience might as well keep its eyes shut throughout.

There must be more arresting ways of tracking the curses, tyrants, sufferings, victims, anguishes about destiny, prophecies, disasters and deaths that constitute Theban pre-history. There must be better ways of bringing the city to life than imaginatively razing it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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THE TIMES

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Our concrete tours de force

Peter Mandler is impressed by the definitive history of the tower block, but still wonders who was to blame for these eyesores

Who is responsible for the tower block? The usual bogeys are, in the right-wing version, radical-chic architects and planners, armed with totalitarian blueprints and socio-psychobabble. In the left-wing version, wetish Tory governments aiming for acclaim and growth through high levels of housing starts, but heedless of the working-class community and quality of life. In the Glendinning and Muthesius version, blame is not in question, and yet the evidence they present leads to the rather creepy conclusion that we are all of us guilty.

Surely the architects do have much to answer for: the pseudo-scientific conjuring with "need and merit" angles and optimal densities, the incredibly loose handling of serious sociological concepts like "community" and "mobility" simply to suit increasingly abstract ideologies of design.

The planners come out of things slightly better. Their postwar formula of slum clearance, "overspill" into New Towns, and "mixed developments" — flexible combinations of cottages, low flats, maisonettes and high flats — looks positively utopian next to the megastructures under examination. But that was the drawback: utopia, by its nature too centralised and dictatorial for the crazy diversity of the modern age.

Indeed, this very diversity and mobility contributed directly to the rise of the tower block. Young married couples, with or without children; older people; lodgers; young unmarried people — all wanted out of the family home. Councilors of the 1950s tell tales of stormy surgeries, constituents doorstepping them, demanding slum clearance, and demanding, too, modern flats with central



Leaning towers of London: demolition in Hackney last October. Tower blocks enjoyed a postwar vogue in the East End; by the late 1980s they were seen as slums

heating, integrated bathrooms and proper kitchens. High-rise flats seemed an unobjectionable means of meeting such insistent demand.

Once inside the tower blocks, the same restless and free-wheeling populations quickly turned them into disaster areas. There may be something intrinsically alienating about tower-block life, but the way in which the blocks could deteriorate instantly suggests that many residents were alienated even before they moved in. Sex in lifts, graffiti and public urination were problems encountered from the minute the first blocks went up.

The actors given closest attention by *Tower Blocks* are the local councilors whose interpretation of all these needs and pressures give us slabs and point blocks. Glendinning and Muthesius refute the standard leftist argument that Tory governments with their

multi-storey subsidies (or, alternatively, monopoly building contractors) manipulated local authorities into building high.

The only decisive central government intervention was a Labour one, aiming not at high-density but the reverse. This was the "land trap", planning controls that were intended to force metropolitan authorities to rehouse their slum populations beyond their boundaries. Many urban barons refused to comply. Instead they devised ingenious circumventions of the planning controls. A gap-filling and site-crumbing public housing programme could only mean tower blocks, the higher the better.

In *Tower Blocks*' account, the key figures are tireless, chain-smoking local government zealots like Glasgow's David Gibson, "a white-faced, intense, driving idealist, absolutely fanatical and sin-

TOWER BLOCK
Modern Public Housing in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
Miles Glendinning and Stefan Muthesius
Yale University Press, £40

cere", of a kind even the planners couldn't help admiring. The multi-storey subsidy, for instance, is analysed as a result of a relentless municipal lobbying, Birmingham supplied the cutting edge. Its leadership crowded into the housing minister's office and said, "Look, Minister, you've got to change this! We're the City of Birmingham, not some tiddly little country town — we want these rules changed!" "And," recalls the then new Birmingham city archi-

tect, "he did! I was staggered — I thought it was fantastic!"

This and many similar stories are retailed in *Tower Block* with great verve and at the same time with great sophistication. If the municipal leaders lend a formidable technical volume a wonderful human touch, they are never caricatured nor, ultimately, assigned an independent role. It remains obscure whether municipal gigantism was more a result of councilors' empire-building, or of idealism, or of technological hubris, or again of that grass-roots pressure for new homes.

The complexity of the processes at work is reflected in the great diversity of outcomes. The result in many places (not just Glasgow and Birmingham, but also Portsmouth and Brighton) was a lot of horribly similar tower blocks, but the result in many other places was quite

different. London was a haven for "mixed development" and planning-minded architecture; so was Coventry. Low-rise public housing continued to thrive everywhere; indeed, tower blocks hardly account for 15 per cent of all new public housing units built between 1945 and 1979.

This disconcerting statistic points to the book's major defect. It is the definitive work on the high-rise block of flats; but despite its subtitle, it gives nothing like a comprehensive picture of modern public housing. By embracing this bias, the authors succeed magnificently in conveying the excitement of High Modernism at its most dizzying heights, but not the objective analysis of modern housing to which they aspire, as the full story lies nearer street-level. We may be responsible for the tower block, but we are not so guilty, after all.

How to unlock thought

Oliver Letwin

THE MIND OF JOHN LOCKE

By Ian Harris

Cambridge University Press, £40

Witness the authentic voice of modern academic: "Locke's political thought figures as the product of a wider vision of existence. Of course, it is not that alone; in particular, it embodies a technique through which general views were mediated into propositions of a specifically political relevance." A joy to read? Then read on: Ian Harris gives us 330 pages of this thrilling, perspicuous prose — with another 100 pages of notes and bibliography for those who find the text itself lightweight.

But one should not be misled by the length of the footnotes or the obscurity of the prose. Harris is a member of the well-known Cambridge school of political thought, whose ambition is to persuade us that thinkers have to be understood "in context". This means that all thinking consists of propaganda for a particular "vision" — a "vision" formed in reaction to the "context" in which the thinker finds himself.

Accordingly, Harris has a theory about what Locke was trying to achieve. Locke, we are told, grew up in a hierarchical world where those at the top told those at the bottom how to behave and what to think. Locke objected to such hierarchy and consequently wrote a lot of books in which he argued that individuals are capable of working things out for themselves.

Is Harris right to claim that, beneath the appearance of an effort to get at philosophical truth, Locke was in fact peddling this "vision"? The evidence against Harris's claim is strong. Harris does not



Locke: did he have a vision?

seem, for example, to be able to explain very much of Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, most of which consists of a detailed enquiry into the origins of knowledge. If Locke's purpose was only to establish that individuals can know things without being told them by people higher up a hierarchy, there were plenty of ways in which he could have made the point without going to the trouble of working out an entire empiricist epistemology.

Harris's response to this sort of argument would doubtless be that his theory is not meant to be a comprehensive explanation of everything Locke wrote. But we are then left with two options: either Harris's theory is a false description of the whole of what Locke was doing or it is a true description of only part of what Locke was doing.

In fact, the second possibility seems the more plausible. It is natural to follow Harris in reading much of Locke's moral, political and even theological writing as an argument in favour of allowing the individual to use his reason, unimpeded by potentially tyrannical controls imposed from above. It is not, however, natural to read Locke's great theory of knowledge in this way. Why should we invent a complicated explanation in terms of propaganda, when there is the simple explanation that Locke was conducting exactly the disinterested philosophical investigation that he said he was conducting?

There is a wider question — what is Harris's "context"? What are he and his confreres trying to achieve? Do they honestly believe that the world of thought consists of people trying to peddle elaborately disguised propaganda? If so, how can they coherently claim that their own works fall under the category of truth rather than that of propaganda? Or are they consciously engaging in the same sort of propaganda that they accuse others of? If so, what is their ulterior purpose? Or is it all a game?

Whatever the motives may be, the results will be pernicious. Philosophy is not merely a tawdry rationalisation of quasi-political pre-conceptions, and civilisation will be immeasurably impoverished if people think that it is.

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The little grey cells learn about life

David Singleton

THE NATURE OF KNOWLEDGE

By Henry Plotkin

Allen Lane, £20

Most scientists hold to the commonsense view that this match is achieved by the simple expedient of having the brain make copies, representations in the jargon, of what it sees around it. I see a map of London and make a copy of it inside my head. This is Aristotle's idea of the brain as a ball of soft wax upon which the world is impressed. Unfortunately, as Kant pointed out, this concept creates intractable philosophical difficulties.

However, Plotkin reminds us, a completely different mechanism for achieving matches between an

organism and its environment was discovered 150 years ago by Charles Darwin. During the 18th century naturalists began to document in detail the extraordinary fit between the forms of animals and the world around them. Darwin showed that these adaptations arise spontaneously through a process of natural selection, as nature continually eliminates from the enormous diversity of all living things those creatures whose form does not adequately match their circumstances.

For Plotkin, adaptations are a sort of knowledge about the world

— the original knowledge created with the origin of life. This insight leads him to the central idea of his book: that just as evolution can be understood as a process of acquiring genetic knowledge of the world, so the brain learns about the world through an evolution process.

THE BRAIN is not a passive malleable entity moulded by the environment, but an active "Darwin machine", continuously generating a huge variety of competing hypotheses about the world and selecting from among them those that will best fit reality.

This view does more than resolve the philosophers' epistemological problems. It offers a radically new scientific perspective on human nature, one which, for example, is much better able to accommodate notions of free will.

Today, there is a fierce argument raging among scientists as to its validity. Plotkin manages to achieve the rare feat of making a debate at the cutting edge of science entirely clear to the layman. His book should be required reading for humans with brains.

David Singleton works for BBC Television. His recent film for Horizon, "The Man who Made Up his Mind", examined the idea that the brain is a Darwin Machine.

Maids, wives, widows

Might a cynical description of America today, in the freezing grip of political correctness, describe it as "A paradise for Women", with woman herself "a favourite of the law"? Surprisingly, this is in fact how male commentators in the early 17th century viewed the status of the English female. As Amy Erickson points out drily: "This insistence that English women were in practice treated with extraordinary kindness... is entirely absent from the writings of women."

Nevertheless Erickson takes this masculine conviction that women had never had it so good as a starting-point to ask what the lives of "ordinary women" (her preferred phrase) during this period were really like. Were the men right? Her book is a scholarly study which is at the same time extremely stimulating on a number of topics which still remain disquieting or controversial.

For example, Erickson starts her chapter on 17th-century "upbringing" by remarking: "A preference for sons rather than daughters is associated with Mediterranean and oriental cultures to the present day." Citing recent "demographic statistics in China, parts of Asia and North Africa" showing that "females die in large numbers as a result of neglect", she points out that girls in western Europe have been supposed to have suffered from the same malign treatment.

But the facts are interestingly different. Orphaned or illegitimate boys and girls were evidently considered to require exactly the same amount of food, since the same amount of money was allowed for them. Prosecutions for killing babies reveal that the sexes suffered equally: a grisly kind of even-handedness. Parents spent as



The Saltonstall Family, c. 1636, by David des Granges (Tate Gallery); allegorical remarriage of a widower, from *Yesterday's Children* by Sally Kevill-Davies (Antique Collectors' Club, £19.95 pbk)

Antonia Fraser

WOMEN AND PROPERTY IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

By Amy Louise Erickson

Routledge, £40

relation to men and children." Erickson adds: "He ignores the obvious inverse, that men should be studied only in relation to women and children."

Considering the case of unmarried women — so-called dependants — who stayed at home to look after the household, she describes one Ellen Stout who kept house for her three brothers in succession. Erickson queries whether Ellen Stout was in fact a dependant. Would it not, indeed, be more accurate to describe the three men in question as dependent upon her? Erickson's main contribution is

in the particular sphere of female ownership and inheritance of property. The material about legacies to daughters — who often did quite as well out of their parents' as all but the eldest male child — is extremely interesting. The legacies that women left each other is another rich field. There was an extraordinary number of Ellen Stouts, unmarried females or "maids". Persistently, single women favoured their nieces, not brothers or nephews, in their wills. Many of Erickson's other women are jolly, energetic widows, who run households, manage property, look after their fatherless children and arrange their lives with exemplary efficiency. You could not possibly describe the state of these women as any kind of paradise, given their inferior legal status, which would not be altered for centuries. But thanks to their own efforts, many of them did at least manage to lead useful and productive lives.

HOW DO we come to know what we know, and can we know that what we know is true? Philosophers have made a good living out of these conundrums for some 2,500 years, but if Professor Plotkin is right, they may soon have to find another line of work. In his fascinating and original book he argues that science is now in a position to tackle these matters, which means that the questions may finally get answered.

For scientists, knowledge boils down to the arrangement of matter in the head. If I know that Hampstead is a district of London, then some sort of match exists between the way my brain cells are connected and the structure of the world. If I believe that Hampstead

is in Paris, then there is a mismatch between the way my brain is arranged and the way the world is arranged. Knowing is thus a question of establishing a satisfactory match between internal bodily structures and the external structure of the environment.

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Michel Syrett and Klari Kingston introduce a special report on the International Institute for Management Development

Making managers — internationally

The office of Professor Peter Lorange, president of the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), looks over the alpine serenity of Lake Geneva. The institute is in Lausanne, on the Swiss side of the lake. But Professor Lorange is at pains to put this in context when he talks of the nature of the IMD. "We are not a Swiss school," he says, "yet we like to think that we bring to the field of management education certain characteristics associated with the Swiss. These include a commitment to high quality, an international perspective and a tradition of objectivity and pragmatism in everything we do."

The IMD is recognised as one of the top two schools of its kind for management education in Europe, and its internationalism is well-known. Professor Lorange is himself Norwegian. Like its main competitor, Insead, at Fontainebleau in France, the IMD operates entirely outside the educational system of its host country, and attempts to ensure that no national culture dominates within its walls. It employs 43 full-time teaching staff of

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Founded: Set up in 1990, through the merger of two industry-sponsored schools, the International Management Institute (IMI) and the Institut pour les Méthodes de Direction d'Entreprises (Imede).

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland, on the former campus of the Imede.

Faculty: Forty-three staff, of 18 different nationalities.

Sponsors: Mainly international or pan-European businesses, including ABB, Andersen Consulting, Dentsu (Ja-

pan), Hoechst, Siemens, Nestlé, AT&T, Shell and General Electric.

Areas of Expertise: International business generally, family-owned companies, manufacturing (strategy and process), environmental management, corporate governance, owner-managers, business alliances.

Strength and weakness: A closely integrated faculty small enough to work across traditional disciplinary boundaries, but lacking detailed expertise in certain subjects, notably East Asia and public administration.

Asian Nations] countries."

The IMD is the product of a merger four years ago of two industry-sponsored schools: the International Management Institute (IMI), founded by Alcan in Geneva in 1946, and the Institut pour les Méthodes de Direction d'Entreprises (Imede), founded by Nestlé in Lausanne in 1957. At the beginning, the merger proved more difficult than its planners expected, and more painful than anyone at the school is still prepared to admit.

It led to the forced departure of the new institute's first president, Professor Juan Rada, the former dean of the IMI, and the removal of an entire layer of middle management, involving 40 redundancies, after heavy losses had been reported for 1991.

In the long term, however, the merger paid off. Virtually nobody at the IMD disputes that there were sound strategic motives for it. Neither the IMI nor the Imede had the resources or size of faculty it needed to service the growing demand for post-experience management education.

Professor Lorange, who was appointed last year, has been free of the commercial and organisational constraints of



Student managers: Professor Kamran Kashani, director of the MBA programme, focuses on four educational principles

his predecessors, and able to position the school where he feels it should be in order to meet the needs of its international clients.

The IMD's approach to business education is based on four principles.

● Integrated tuition: Professor Lorange wants to keep the

teaching staff small, so that it works as a team and avoids the inter-departmental rivalry and blinkered academic thinking that has plagued so many of the IMD's competitors.

In his view, this will help to create an integrated approach to the school's general management programmes. Topics such as ethics, change management, environmental management and leadership are not treated as specialist subjects, but run like a thread through all the courses.

● A commitment to continuous training: The IMD's range of public programmes is designed to "accompany" managers throughout their careers.

The master of business administration programme is not treated as the final stage of post-graduate study, but as the foundation for a series of shorter executive programmes that provide participants with the opportunity to update their skills and broaden their outlooks up to and including the point at which they are promoted to the board.

● Partnership with industry: The IMD works closely with a worldwide network of 120 partner and business-associate companies.

These companies — which include big blue-chip corporations such as Nestlé, Ciba Geigy, General Electric, Shell, Hoffman La Roche and Fiat — join forces with IMD professors in research projects, and are encouraged to influence

the focus, design and content of the institute's programmes. Tailored programmes for companies such as Digital, Hoechst, Honeywell and Exxon now account for nearly half of the IMD's revenue.

● Research-based solutions: As a former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wharton and other American research-based universities, Professor Lorange feels strongly that tuition on public and in-company programmes needs to be based on continuous research.

To this end, the IMD has

school's faculty and approach to business education.

It also helps to meet competition, which increasingly comes from management consultants as well as the IMD's more conventional rivals.

As Professor Derek Abell, the former dean of the Imede, says: "Companies need new processes to cope with changes in a highly complex world, and what they look for is neither a consultant nor a traditional academic, but a mixture of the two."

"The IMD is developing this kind of hands-on approach."

Quite often, we are asked in to design some form of in-company education, and very soon we find ourselves in the president's office talking about the fundamental issues affecting the business."

This focused approach comes at a price. It means the institute will find it hard to build a big enough teaching staff for areas where it lacks a presence.

The IMD has yet to build up a strategic presence among the thriving economies of South-East Asia, for example. Professor Lorange has also eschewed any attempt to build up expertise in the management needs of government and public administration.

But he is unrepentant. "For a small organisation, strategy means choice," he says. "Clarity of purpose is essential. To survive in a highly competitive world, business schools have to assess accurately where their strengths lie."

“Quite often we are asked in to design some form of in-company education”

just formed a partnership with two Swiss engineering schools, the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, which will provide new opportunities for doctoral research projects.

Keeping the teaching team small and the strategic focus tight has enabled the IMD to excel in those areas in which it has developed expertise. Since it has its roots in industry, it is well-placed to follow a strategy of forging close partnerships with international companies, and this helps to develop the

Small is successful

Much of the appeal of the IMD's Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme lies in its relatively small size. Two years ago the decision was taken to keep the number of students at their present level of slightly more than 80. This compares with 180 in the MBA programme at the London Business School, and more than 400 at Insead, at Fontainebleau in France, the two schools most often spoken of in the same breath by prospective students and recruiters.

There are only three students to every one professor at the IMD, and the result is that there is plenty of time to follow up points made in class, and, with up to 30 nationalities represented among the participants, ample opportunity to take advantage of the cultural variety of the campus.

"It was the intimacy of the programme which finally prompted me to study at the IMD," Manuel Adell, a 31-year-old Spanish participant, says. "I was told how difficult it was for students to gain their fair share of the tutor's attention at schools where the MBA intake is 200 or more."

At the same time, the IMD places emphasis on team working, and this makes for close interaction between students of different nationalities. Professor Kamran Kashani, director of the MBA programme, says: "MBA students have acquired the reputation of being good analytical robots and number-crunchers."

Their ability to be innovative and creative inside companies depends largely on the collective excitement and commitment they inspire in and receive from their colleagues.

To this end, study at the IMD revolves around projects undertaken by small teams of five or six students. This is reinforced by collective consul-

The MBA course promotes joint decisions in small classes



The IMD library in Lausanne, Switzerland

tancy assignments undertaken for companies associated with the institute. These are under the guidance of faculty members with experience as line managers or consultants.

In the past two years, for example, teams of students have worked on new product lines for Nabisco, helped Club Med re-examine its distribution strategy, and contributed to a marketing strategy for Swatch watches. A new feature is Team-Initiated Enterprise (TIE),

which allows students to set themselves a project of their own making. Last year, such teams chose tasks as diverse as providing basic business education for business people in Eastern Europe, organising a day-centre on the IMD campus for the children of students and staff, and, in an enterprise which received wide publicity, undertaking a successful expedition to climb Mont Blanc.

This year, the project includes a study of leadership outside business and a project to provide essential household goods to needy people in the local community.

IMD faculty members play no role in running such projects. Students are left to define their own criteria for success, raise the necessary finance, find the essential equipment and allot roles within the team. In some cases, the aims of the projects complement each other. The press coverage of the Mont Blanc expedition, for example, was orchestrated by another TIE team responsible for promoting the IMD's public image.

The integrated approach, by which different management issues are not treated in isolation, and which underpins all IMD executive programmes, is also a feature of the MBA curriculum. The programme is split into smaller modules so that participants can examine the same case-study from five or six perspectives.

However, the feature most remarked on by the students is the greater maturity and the broader business perspective of their fellow participants at the IMD.

"I'm in my early 30s, and did not fancy studying with 25-year-olds," Stephen Judt, a British student in this year's intake, says. "The career options of people on this programme are closer to my own."



Saint Bernard

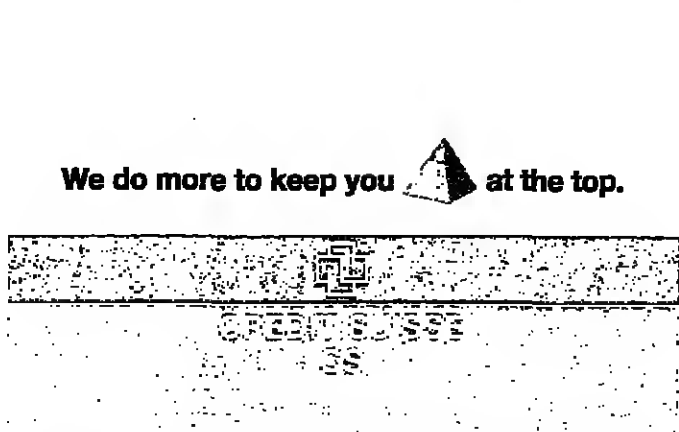


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Siren bell for the old

Investment worried who the company

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Reconciling family interests with business needs requires successful management. The IMD is there to help

Succession is the principal challenge. Few entrepreneurs

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GED

EXAMPLES WORKSHEET



**Investors are
worried about
who decides
company policy**

Many companies have complied with the recommendations of the Cadbury report. Pro NED, the agency principally responsible for promoting the effective use of independent directors in the UK, has noted a significant increase in the number of companies that are upgrading their selection procedures.

To determine how effective the board is in shaping corporate strategy, Professor Neubauer and a colleague, Ada Demb, have designed a set of diagnostic tools. These enable a company to measure such issues as whether non-executive directors are consulted on important strategic decisions, whether they can hire

Mr Vendt says: "We expect them to spend at least two days, and maybe more, outside board meetings getting to know their assigned

attempt to groom a successor because, as Dr Schwass comments, "it reminds them of their mortality. Who wants to think about their death?"

Stage 3: The crisis. Too late the founder approaches a chosen successor. But by this time the sons or daughters of the entrepreneur may be unprepared or unwilling to take over. They may lack the training. They may have careers in unrelated fields. They may even be able to retire.

Stage 4: The management passes to outsiders, but the family retains control. As the third and fourth generations grow up, the shareholding is spread between anything up to 50 family members. Some may sit on the board and a few might work for the business in another capacity, but the majority are linked to the business only by their shares. They are forbidden to sell shares outside the family. This suits the incumbent management well, because it protects them from hostile takeovers. The market for the shares is poor and dividends remain low. Shareholders outside the family (and a few within) smoulder in discontent.

Faced with such a train of events, it is small wonder that according to Professor Alderink, Lank. Professor of Family Enterprises at the IMD, only 15 per cent of family companies that manage to survive five years are successfully passed on to a third generation.

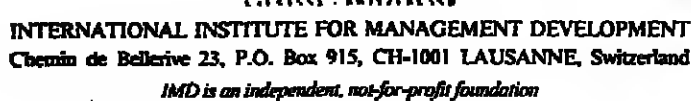
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We're proud of it. IMD's fine print lists the 116 leading companies who take an active part in the institute - our Partners and Business Associates. The osmosis that results from this unique partnership between industry and IMD puts us at the forefront of international executive development. Collaboration with some of the most successful companies in the world ensures that IMD's programs and research are solidly grounded in today's market while preparing executives for the future.



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Put green ideas to advantage

Modern managers ignore the environment at their peril

The integrated approach adopted by the IMD in its philosophy towards business education shows up most clearly in its approach to environmental management. It believes that the issue should not be seen as marginal but treated as something that today plays its part in almost all aspects of management.

When Professor Francisco Szekely launched Managing the Industrial and Business Environment (MIBE), IMD's latest research project, he therefore avoided creating a series of specialist courses. "We modified the curriculum of all IMD programmes so that the impact of environmental management is fed into every aspect of business. Ninety-five per cent of our courses now have an environmental component."

Professor Szekely also advises the United Nations on environmental issues. He believes that all companies will, sooner or later, have to comply with environmental standards imposed on them by pressure groups and legislation. The IMD offers

seminars and workshops, therefore, to discuss new regulations and legislation, such as the European Community's new eco-management and audit scheme.

It also produces a bi-monthly newsletter that highlights the experiences of companies which have adopted or benefited from an imaginative response to the environment debate.

A recent example is Tupperware, the world's leading plastic-food-container manufacturer. Tupperware is a member of the MIBE project, and its philosophy about ecology, says Dr Hans Adelmann, the managing director of its German subsidiary, is "the best way to avoid pollution is not to create it in the first place".

To this end Tupperware Deutschland has embarked on an active campaign to encourage people to shop with plastic containers and thus avoid the need for any additional plastic or aluminium wrappers. The result, highlighted in a recent survey in Berlin, has been a 30 per cent reduction in waste.

Integration helps to boost products

Business re-engineering is a new management term that is all the rage these days.

In the course of a one-hour interview, Professor Robert Collins, associate director of Manufacturing 2000, the IMD's premier research project, never once mentioned the term, but this is what M2000 is helping many of its members to undertake.

The term was coined in 1993 in a book, *Re-Engineering the Corporation*, by Michael Hammer and James Champy.

It is usually interpreted to mean that companies, in order to remain competitive, should abandon the old practice of dividing themselves into bureaucratic empires focused on discrete tasks, such as sales, marketing and accounts.

Instead, they should organise around continuous business processes designed to get the company's products to the customer. This normally involves bypassing middle managers and devolving responsibility to multi-disciplinary teams of shop-floor workers.

For international business,

Management's new buzz word is business re-engineering

there is an added requirement. When they have a market that spans borders, companies should also abandon a country-by-country approach to manufacturing and distributing their products.

They should restructure their operations to support the development of products that have an international appeal.

In Professor Collins's view, European countries are lagging behind their North American and Japanese competitors in developing this approach.

"Some of the procedures that underpin international competitiveness are simply not in place," he says. "Many companies are burdened by over-capacity and by logistical difficulties that stem from the historical location of factories never intended to service an international market."

Many businesses are now tackling this difficulty. Nestlé, one of the companies closely associated with the M2000 project, has divided its chocolate confectionery into two groups, horizontal bars and tablets that can be broken into squares. It has split its factories into those that produce bars and those that produce tablets. The products, such as the recently launched Yes bar, are increasingly developed, marketed and distributed to a pan-European consumer.

The project was launched in 1990 to help manufacturing companies to develop new processes and approaches to cope with the demands of an international marketplace. One of the objectives is for members to share good practice and fund joint research.

Oticon, for example, one of the world's largest manufacturers of hearing aids, has, with the help of M2000, reorganised the way its professional staff work.

Lars Kollind, the managing director, says: "We redefined



Professor Tom Vollman, left, and Professor Robert Collins head the M2000 project

jobs by moving from hierarchical 'boxes' where each person had to work to a specific job description to a situation where jobs are designed around the individual. Each person now has at least three jobs: the one they are trained for and two they are not. In the circumstances, chip designers

might also do marketing." So why are M2000 staff reluctant to use the expression business re-engineering? It is perhaps because many European companies use the term as a euphemism for restructuring in general and sacking workers in particular, and nearly all the IMD staff are

united in their revulsion for unnecessary "downsizing". Professor Tom Vollman, the newly appointed overall director of M2000, says: "Downsizing may help temporarily, but it does not solve most basic business problems. If you do downsizing only, you wind up dead."

The new breed look at a world trade puzzle

THE GROUND rules that underpin world trade are shifting, creating a puzzle for companies that have to conform to them. This, according to Professor Stéphane Garelli of the IMD, is the main conclusion to be drawn from the 1994 edition of *World Competitiveness Report*, a comparison of the economies of 54 countries produced annually by the IMD and the World Economic Forum.

The changes have been brought about by new social and economic forces, which are listed in the report. They include:

● A revolution in technology, which is endangering the job security of white-collar workers as much as their blue-collar counterparts.

● A revolution in world markets, transferring wealth and

production capacity from the US and Europe to East Asia, a region with a collective annual growth of almost 5 per cent.

● A revolution in management processes, in which quality, speed and customer satisfaction have become the cornerstones of international trade.

American and European companies have been caught off guard by competition in East Asia, the report concludes, because they dismissed growth in developing countries as stemming solely from cheap labour.

"Most countries in the region have invested massively in their education systems, especially at secondary-school level," says Professor Garelli. "Europe and the United States are just realising that

Education is vital to understanding the competitiveness of any one country, the institute believes

they have problems with the performance, or perhaps the competitiveness, of their secondary-school system."

Values also have a key role to play. The report suggests that as companies accumulate wealth and their workers wish to spend it, the drive for greater competitiveness is gradually reduced.

"Different countries reach this point at different times," Professor Garelli points out. "Japan has more or less reached the same point as most countries in the West. It looks nervously behind its back at Malaysia, which in

turn looks nervously behind its back at China."

The IMD, therefore, emphasises the importance of secondary education in determining the relative competitiveness of any one country. Workers need a good grounding in the sciences and mathematics if they are to understand the implications of the technological revolution sweeping through most economies.

The pay-off will be a new breed of managers who feel comfortable with technology, and able to use it.

In order to achieve this, the

IMD entered into a new partnership this year with two Swiss engineering schools, the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, which is designed to introduce students of science and engineering to the realities of management.

Professor Derek Abell, the member of the IMD faculty responsible for the partnership, says: "Our target audience is former technical or science students in their thirties and mid forties. They represent an untapped source of talent who can add real value to commercial decision-making by making full use of their technical knowledge."

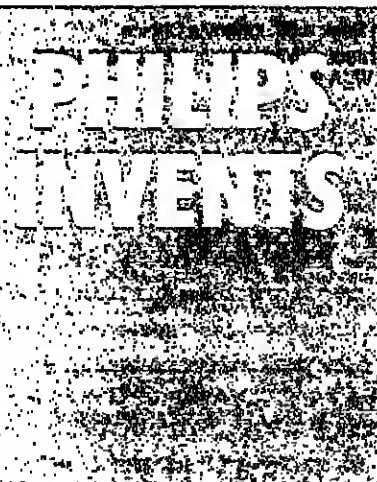
In its approach to the forces affecting world competition, however, the IMD seems

more comfortable analysing economic trends in North America, Western Europe and East Asia than it does in setting out a new agenda for Central and Eastern Europe, where regional trends are less clear-cut. Because of the uncertainty of the political and economic situation in the region, the institute seems to be adopting a wait-and-see approach.

A few things are clear, however. Professor Yuri Boshyk considers that Russia is turning its back on the free-market philosophy advocated in Gatt and the International Monetary Fund. "For the past two years, the country has been moving towards a form of capitalism which puts national interests first," he says. "Under this philosophy, you don't let the market decide."



Professor Francisco Szekely: avoided specialist courses



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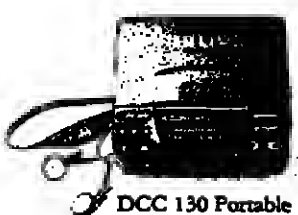
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Australian board acts against Hughes and Warne

Not satisfied with the £200 fine which Donald Carr, the official International Cricket Council referee, levelled upon Merv Hughes and Shane Warne for their unacceptable behaviour in the first Test match between South Africa and Australia which finished in Johannesburg on Tuesday, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has imposed its own very much stiffer penalties. Each player has been fined a further £2,000 — the equivalent of their match fees. Bravo, the ACB.

Only recently, Alan Crompton, its chairman, spoke out strongly against the pattern of behaviour, based on the standards set by idols such as Hughes and Dennis Lillee, which has become prevalent in Australian cricket.

Not that such boorishness is confined to Australia. In

England, the county game is much better than it was; but in far too many clubs and villages and, I am afraid schools, cricket is no longer "first of all sports and first alike in fame".

But what else is to be expected when Warne, universally acknowledged as the most exciting, creative and wonderful bowler to have emerged for at least a generation, is seen in a Test match on television, chasing hysterically after a batsman he has just dismissed in order to revile him? It is, apparently, a habit which Warne has been allowed to develop, quite unchecked by Allan Border and Bobby Simpson, captain and coach respectively of the Australia side.

Hughes, of course, has been rampaging for years. In Australia's last 15 Test matches, he has been fined three times.



John Woodcock commends the additional fines imposed upon players who tarnish the game

If a professional golfer behaved as crassly, he would be banished to the practice ground; when Alex Higgins, the snooker player, made a mockery of tradition, he was not heard of again for an expensive long time. Tennis, on the other hand, allowed John McEnroe to get away with anarchy and suffered for it.

The action of the ACB, which overrides the management here in South Africa, is long overdue. I doubt whether Hughes makes a penny less than £150,000 a year, directly or indirectly, out of cricket. Until now, he has been able to laugh at the fines imposed on

him, that is if he has had to pay them himself.

When the South African, Peter Kirsten, was twice fined for dissent in Australia recently, the amount in question was very soon raised when donations were asked for over one of South Africa's radio networks. He could even have made a killing out of it.

Since their introduction in 1992, the ICC's referees have been, if I may say so, a little unworried, a little too reverential. Long enough has passed since most of them played the game for them not to know, perhaps, just what does go on out in the middle. The umpires, for their part, are

sufficiently unsure of themselves to cock a deaf ear or turn a blind eye.

Since cricket became a rougher game, England have been fortunate in their captains. They may not always have sparked as tacticians, but harassment has never been tolerated.

Going round the world, I would say that the Test sides of West Indies, New Zealand and South Africa also behave with reasonable restraint. Pakistan are a law unto themselves; India and Sri Lanka can be madly excitable; Zimbabwe are still having their eyes opened.

The only international cricketer to have been suspended from a one-day international in New Zealand is Aqib Javed, which has helped to persuade Pakistan that

there is one set of rules for them and another for other countries.

In the Test match which Australia have just lost, the grumpier they got and the shorter they bowled and the more they fulminated, the less chance they had of winning. So they went down, and to the bitter end Hughes was his irascible self.

As he left the field after Australia had lost their last wicket on Tuesday afternoon, he clobbered a spectator with his bat, perhaps for being on the receiving end of epithets whose copyright he thought he owned.

Out of his flannels, he is a splendid fellow, generous, wholehearted and loyal: just as Warne, from all accounts, is a very pleasant young man. Their reaction to what amounts to an ultimatum will be awaited with interest.



Warne's bad behaviour has been punished

England hope to take turn for the better

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

GUYANA is never the most enticing prospect of a modern Caribbean tour. In Georgetown, the old grace and elegance of a wooden city has long since given way to poverty and decay, amenity levels are low and, when cricket comes to this shoulder of South America, rain customarily comes, too.

But for all that, England must look forward keenly to the next fortnight, for conditions will befriend them here as nowhere else.

If proof were needed that the pitch at the Bourda ground bears no relation to those on the islands, it comes in the make-up of the West Indies Board President's XI, against whom England begin a four-day game today.

Four spin bowlers are included, which may be some sort of record for a West Indian representative team in the past 20 years.

The ball turns by tradition at Bourda. Guyana, the regional champions of West

Indian cricket last year, regularly win matches with spin and most of their home games proceed on the assumption that the seam bowlers are present only to get the shine off the ball before handing it over.

Although it is patently in the interests of West Indies that it should not turn too soon or too much when the second Test starts a week today, England must plan for the possibility that it will. Hence, both Ian Salisbury and Philip Tufnell will play today and it is by no means certain that they are in competition for one Test place rather than rehearsing a more ambitious strategy.

Given that England already trail in the series and that they have managed to score a total of more than 400 in only one of their last 26 Test innings, it might seem suicidal to weaken their batting in order to accommodate a fifth bowler. But they are doing so today, when it is planned that Jack Russell will bat at No. 6, and it

remains conceivable that they will do the same next week.

Alternatively, they could adopt the Australian method and play both their slow bowlers alongside a minimum two seam bowlers. Most likely, however, boldness will desert them when it matters and they will end up compromising with Graeme Hick's off breaks and choosing between Salisbury and Tufnell.

This would be a waste, for the specialist spinners are contrasting bowlers with individual assets that could win the Test for England. They are more plausible match-winners than Chris Lewis, who is apparently being primed for the Devon Malcom role as a strike bowler.

In opposition today is an intriguing selection of new generation West Indian players. The fast bowlers are Cameron Cuffy, a Curtly Ambrose clone from St Vincent, and Franklyn Rose, from Jamaica, both thought to have imminent Test prospects.

Nehemiah Perry, another Jamaican, will bowl off breaks and there will be leg spin from Shivnarine Chanderpaul, 19, the exciting Guyana all-rounder, and Rajindra Dharmraj, from Trinidad.

After taking 30 wickets in the Red Stripe Cup this season, Dharmraj, 25, would be the player selected if West Indies were to include a specialist slow bowler.

It is more likely they will select Roger Harper as an off-spinning all-rounder next week, when they should also be strengthened by the return of Carl Hooper.

After missing the first Test, and the one-day series with a back complaint, Hooper captains the President's XI today. He will bat high up, because he might yet open in the Test, and bowl his off breaks if he can get the ball away from his three younger spinners.

The England party arrived late yesterday, cheered by the news that there has been no rain here for weeks. They should beware. A long-range weather forecast for March predicted that Georgetown would have five days of rain in the month. Long-suffering local cricket followers are already resigned to which five.

Scoreboard, page 46

Inzamam sets up Pakistan victory

PAKISTAN secured victory in the five-match one-day series against New Zealand with an 11-run win in the third game in Wellington yesterday. In a match reduced by early morning rain to 48 overs a side, Pakistan reached a solid 213 for six thanks mainly to a 142-run second-wicket partnership between Aamir Sohail and Inzamam-ul-Haq.

New Zealand, who finished on 202 for eight, were undone by some brilliant ground fielding, which produced three run-outs. Bryan Young, the opener, and Andrew Jones, the No. 3, had put them in a good position at 76 for one but Young was run out by a fine piece of fielding from Inzamam. Jones was also the victim of a run out, Basit Ali hitting the stumps from mid-off.

Ken Rutherford and Shane Thompson kept New Zealand's hopes alive with a brisk fourth-wicket stand of 62 in 77 balls but the loss of four

wickets in successive overs effectively ended the contest. New Zealand were left needing 21 off the last over and Waqar Younis bowled Gavin Larsen with the first ball.

The Pakistan innings was based around the stand between Aamir and Inzamam, the man of the match. It was a Pakistan record for the second wicket against New Zealand, exceeding the 139 put on by Ramji Raja and Salim Malik in Sialkot four years ago. Inzamam made 84 and Aamir 76.

They began sedately but stepped up the pace, taking 60 from eight overs in the middle of the innings.

□ The Sri Lankan Cricket Board has appointed a five-man committee to investigate the national team's dismal performances in India last month. Sri Lanka lost all three Test matches by an innings with a day to spare.

Taking up sticks to play a passing game



Concentration from the girls of Guildford High School and St Margaret's, Bushey, at the national schoolgirls lacrosse championships in Milton Keynes yesterday. Both teams lost in the semi-finals, with Downe House, Newbury winning the tournament. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Richardson searching for higher profile

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Park Associates brochure lists Linaker, Atherton and Curd, and 15 other well-known sportsmen and women, among the people it represents. The odd one out is Mark Richardson.

"I sometimes look through the client brochure and think: 'What am I doing there?'" Richardson said. "But they have taken me on because of my potential and hopefully this year I will start to fulfil it."

In Paris tomorrow, Richardson goes into the first round of the 400 metres on the opening day of the European indoor championships with his sights fixed on gold in the final on Sunday. The absence, for vari-

ous reasons, of David Grindley, Roger Black and Derek Redmond has left him with the task of upholding Britain's tradition of success at 400 metres, though his teammate, Du'aine Ladego, might beat him to it.

"This is my first challenge at a senior individual level and it is immensely important to me," Richardson said. At 21, he has relay medals from the outdoor world championships and Olympic Games, but nothing of an individual nature since he finished second to Grindley at the 1991 European junior championships.

That is not to overlook his second place at the 1992 World Cup in Havana but to acknowledge, as Richardson does, that it was not a champ-

ionship and came at the end of a season when athletes were tired.

He missed most of 1993 because of injury but is now top of the 1994 European indoor rankings with 46.11sec, a time that only two athletes, the Americans, Michael Johnson, and Antonio Pettigrew, have beaten.

The British record, held by Todd Bennett, at 45.56sec, is nine years old. "I feel I am in shape to break 46sec in a major way but I am not focusing on the record," Richardson said. "I just want to win."

Home is Maidenhead but it might have been Anguilla, a Caribbean island of only 36 square miles. His father left there, as Richardson put it, to

"seek his fortune". His mother runs a nursing home, his father works for Mars and, between them, they made enough to help put their son through private school.

But only by proving himself in the classroom did Richardson, now a student at Loughborough University, earn the chance to do so on the track. His father insisted that he met certain academic standards before allowing him to join a club. At 13, he gained a scholarship into Claires Court senior school and permission was granted to attend training with Windsor, Slough and Eton AC.

The European indoor championships two years ago provided Grindley with a platform from which to

launch a successful senior career. He won the bronze medal and, five months later, set a British record to reach the Olympic final in Barcelona. Richardson failed to qualify for Barcelona, running the first 200 metres of the trial too cautiously.

"I thought at the time of the European junior championships that my career would take off quicker than it has," Richardson said. "David has realised his potential and I am anxious to get up there with him."

Winning in Paris would be the encouragement he needs to believe that, come the summer, he has as much chance as Grindley, Black or Redmond of taking the European outdoor title.

British harbour hopes of medal haul

Alix Ramsay reports how the Paralympic Games could produce a 'Torvill and Dean effect' on disabled sport

Lillehammer will again come to life tonight in pursuit of Olympic ideals. Memories of Torvill and Dean may be fading but their place is about to be taken by 500 athletes from 30 countries as the sixth Paralympic Winter Games open.

Britain's Olympic squad had its most successful Games since 1948, winning two bronze medals, but the Paralympic team are aiming to do much better. Their goal is to beat the one silver and four bronzes won in Tignes, France, two years ago.

Although the Winter Olympics have always been the poor relation of the Games later in the year, things are gradually beginning to change and, if the British team live up to expectations, the Torvill and Dean effect could come into play.

"Following the Olympics, you can go to any ice rink and see the place full of children wanting to be Torvill and Dean," Adrian Whiteson, the president of the British Paralympic Association (BPA), said. "In the Paralympics, we are gradually making people aware that we have a team of potential medal-winners. If they are successful here, it will encourage sponsorship, gain media attention and create role models that other disabled children will want to emulate." That, Whiteson hopes, will in turn help convince the

International Paralympic Committee that the Games in winter and summer deserve equal standing.

Britain's 23-strong squad in Lillehammer is beginning to benefit from a more professional approach. The Nordic team has, for the first time, the financial backing of the BPA, relieving some of the burden on Mike Brace, the team manager and competitor in the biathlon for the blind. He used to fund the team by raising £30,000 a year from after-dinner speaking engagements. More money now means more training trips and a better chance to win medals.

With Pete Young training with the British Olympic Nordic squad, Matt Stockford working with the national Alpine team and Richard Burt — with his guide, Keith Hockley — training in France with sighted skiers, the squad can make a serious claim to be athletes who have a disability rather than disabled people who also happen to ski.

However, they all know that in the two years since Tignes, the sport has progressed dramatically. The selection standards are higher and the forecast

is for the toughest competition yet. In France, Britain's medals were won by Stockford, with three bronzes, and Burt, with a silver and a bronze. They will again lead the medal chase in Lillehammer.

Stockford was disappointed with his performance at the last Games and left gold was within his reach in his favoured discipline, the downhill. This year, his new ski-bob is performing well in training and, provided he has the measure of the Americans, he is confident of improving on his results.

His main rival in the LW10 will be Chris Waddell, from the United States. Like Stockford, Waddell's skiing career was well established until he broke his back in a skiing accident. Three years on, Waddell is back on the snow and this season has been flying past the LW11s and LW12s, the less severely disabled sit-skiers, in training.

In the Alpine events for the blind, Burt will be Britain's only competitor, but he is one of the strongest hopes for a medal. At Paralympic level, the blind are not allowed to compete in the

downhill. But that does not stop him racing flat out for speed against able-bodied skiers in other competitions. With his guide skiing ten yards in front of him, Burt will renew his rivalry with the American, Brian Santos, the man who beat him into silver medal position in the giant slalom last time.

Burt underwent a knee operation before Christmas but, now that he is fully recovered, a winter of training in France could pay dividends and see him mature at the age of 21 into an experienced race tactician.

The strongest competition at the Paralympics will be in the LW2 class for leg amputees, where Britain's veteran, Mike Hammond, and Jon Morris, will have to fend off the challenge of Greg Manning, from the United States, and Alexander Spitz, from Germany. Although Hammond is now 46, his times in training have taken everyone by surprise this winter.

With the BPA focusing all its attention and money on elite sport, Whiteson believes the prospects are good for the British. "All our athletes are positive, they are going there to win medals," he said. "Of course we need more sponsorship to pay for the best facilities. We're not quite there yet, but it is better and the days of dry-slope training are past."

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	115 200	good spring slush	fine	2	20/2
(Conditions still good despite temperature)					
AUSTRIA					
Mayrhofen	60 85	fair heavy closed	fine	16	4/3
(Good summer skiing on upper slopes of Hinterau)					
Oberurgl	90 150	good heavy slush	fine	8	6/3
(Excellent piste skiing on upper runs)					
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	140 300	good varied	fair	5	3/3
(North-facing slopes coping well with mild temperatures)					
Chamonix	35 350	good spring slush	fine	10	3/3
(Excellent midday skiing on L'Avançon bowl)					
Flaine	85 300	good varied slush	fine	6	6/3
(Excellent skiing despite warm temperatures)					
Tignes	145 285	good varied	fair	6	3/3
(Fine spring skiing despite warm temperatures)					
Val d'Isère	125 340	good varied slush	fine	3	6/3
(Upper runs excellent in early morning)					
ITALY					
Corvina	5 100	good open	sun	8	6/2
(Good skiing on upper slopes early morning)					
SWITZERLAND					
Arosa	100 110	good fair spring	sun	7	6/3
(Pistes in good condition though resort)					
Klosters	10 190	good heavy good	fine	10	4/3
(All higher runs in good condition)					
St Moritz	100 250	good varied	sun	5	2/3
(Good conditions on well-groomed pistes)					
Verbier	20 350	good heavy slush	fine	14	6/3
(Various runs closed due to avalanche risk)					
Villars	15 150	fair heavy slush	sun	18	6/3
(Overnight frost aiding conditions)					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
DIADORA LEAGUE: Carlsberg Trophy: Newbury Town v Hemel Hempstead
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Aston United v Garsley
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Crediton v Salish United; Frome v Bristol Manor Farm
NEVILLE OWENEN COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers v Charlton; Plymouth v Southampton
FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round, replay: Monaghan Utd v Finn Harps

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League (B): Birmingham v Dorby; London Towers v Manchester

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Woosnam knows when to stop, however, and having also proved that a titch of 5ft 4½ in can be the best player in the world, he now feels no driving need to be No 1. "My goal is to win more major tournaments," he said.

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